Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-065
Thursday
4 April 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-067 4 April 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Responses to Kuwaiti Reprisals Against Palestinians 1
Coalition Blamed for Maltreatment *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Hawatimah Denounces Practices *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 3 Apr]* 1
'Destruction Policy' Assailed *[Vienna AZ 27 Mar]* 1
Statement Expresses Support for Lebanese Efforts *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudiaf Announces 27 Jun Election Date *[Algiers TV]* 2
FLN Party Chief Comments on Political Situation *[APS]* 2
Baghdad Ambassador Replaced; Unrest Reported *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Mar]* 3

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Nominated for Arab League Post *[MENA]* 3
Interior Minister Discusses Iraqi Terrorist Group *[MENA]* 3
Writer Says Iraq in 'Dire Need' of Arab Help *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Paper Urges U.S. To Work for Israeli Withdrawal *[MENA]* 4
Columnist Says 'Arafat Remarks Cannot Be Forgiven *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 1 Apr]* 4

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticizes Customs Duties *[Tripoli TV]* 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Iran Offers Oil Industry Reconstruction Aid *[Tehran Radio]* 6
Palestinians Urged To Judge 'Deceitful' Leaders
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 29 Mar] 6
Kuwait City Airport To Reopen 15 Apr *[Riyadh TV]* 6

Saudi Arabia

Reported Prince Bandar Trip to Jerusalem 'Untrue' *[SPA]* 6

United Arab Emirates

General Schwarzkopf Arrives in Abu Dhabi 2 Apr *[WAKH]* 6
Meets With President *[WAKH]* 6
Discusses Iraq With Defense Minister *[AFP]* 7

Yemen

UN Envoy Urges Rejection of Draft Resolution *[Aden Radio]* 7

IRAQ

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Top Officials 3 Apr 8
Statement Issued *[Baghdad Radio]* 8
Saddam Meets Defense Minister, Officers *[INA]* 8
Al-Majid Says 'External Sides' Aiding Rebellion *[INA]* 8
Government Officials Continue Regional Visits 9
Ibrahim Tours Al-Sulaymaniyah *[Baghdad Radio]* 9
Trade Minister Visits Dahuk *[INA]* 9
Deputy Premier Visits Dhi Qar *[Baghdad Radio]* 9
Education Minister Inspects Babil Schools *[Baghdad Radio]* 10
Official Meets Chieftains in Salah-Al-Din *[Baghdad Radio]* 10
Al-Sulaymaniyah Completely Purged of 'Saboteurs' *[INA]* 10
Electricity, Water Restored to Some Karkuk Areas *[INA]* 10
Commentary: Security Council 'Morally Responsible' *[Baghdad Radio]* 10
Responses to Draft Cease-Fire Resolution Cited 11
Called 'Extremely Unfair' *[INA]* 11
Assailed as 'Epitome of U.S. Hatred' *[INA]* 11
UN Envoy Voices 'Strong Reservations' *[Baghdad Radio]* 12
GCC Decision To Stop Aid to Jordan, PLO Criticized *[INA]* 12
Amnesty Granted to Army Deserters From Zakho *[INA]* 13
Representative Comments on Arab League Meetings *[MENA]* 13
Opposition Radio on Saddam's Speech to Cabinet *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 13
Clashes Continue in Al-Basrah, Neighboring Towns *[Tehran Radio]* 14
'Acts of Resistance' Reported *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Army Reportedly Raids Al-Najaf Shrine *[Tehran Radio]* 14

ISRAEL

Shamir, Sharon on Iraqi 'Massacre' of Kurds *[Jerusalem TV]* 15
Shamir: U.S. Job Not Finished *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Arens Calls For Mideast Arms Supply Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Arens on Israeli, West Bank Palestinians *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Apr]* 15
Gaza Group Seeks PLO Approval of Candidates *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Apr]* 18
Gaza Notable Urges Self-Criticism by PLO *[AL-FAJR 31 Mar]* 18
Intifadah Incidents, Killings Updated *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Apr]* 19

JORDAN

King Returns, Comments on Visit to West Europe *[Amman Radio]* 20
Comment Sees 'Special Importance' *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Apr]* 20
'Arabiyat Criticizes GCC Decision To Cut Aid *[AL-RA'Y 3 Apr]* 20
Compensation for Popular Army Volunteers Approved *[AL-RA'Y 3 Apr]* 21
France's 'False Concern' for Iraqi Rebels Noted *[AL-RA'Y 3 Apr]* 21
Libyan Trade Official Welcomes Stronger Ties *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Apr]* 22

LEBANON

Cabinet Discusses Resolution 425, Militia Issue *[VOL]* 23
PSP Pledges Commitment to Militia Dissolution *[VOM]* 23
Prime Minister on Militias, Palestinian Dialogue *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Interior Minister on Recruitment of Militiamen *[VOM]* 24
Sa'adah on Al-Ta'if Accord, Talks With Khaddam *[RFL]* 24
Bomb Explodes Near Minister Al-Bizri's House *[VOL]* 24
Fadlallah Cited on Gulf Security, Hostages *[London AL-HAWADITH 29 Mar]* 24

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Returns After Meeting Saudi King *[Damascus Radio]* 27
Commentary Criticizes Israel's Concept of Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 27
AL-THAWRAH on Saddam's 'Black Record' *[Damascus Radio]* 27

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Views Kimmitt Remarks on Khowst *[Kabul Radio]* 28
Decries Pakistan's 'Crimes' *[Kabul Radio]* 28
Najibullah Appeals to Regional Leaders on Khowst 29
Message to Iranian President *[Kabul Radio]* 29
Message to Turkey's Ozal *[Kabul Radio]* 29
AFP Interviews Najibullah on Fall of Khowst *[AFP]* 30
Gardeyz Seen as Mujahidin's 'Next Major Target' *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 3 Apr]* 31
Mujahidin Said in 'Complete Control' of Khowst *[Islamabad Radio]* 31
Mujahidin Commander Discusses 'March to Kabul' *[AFP]* 32

India

Envoy Speaks on UN Gulf Cease-Fire Resolution *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Indian, Pakistani Foreign Secretaries To Meet *[Islamabad Radio]* 33
Janata Dal-S Leader Shukla Defects to Congress-I *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Gujarat Chief Announces New Party, Goals *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Uttar Pradesh State Assembly Dissolved *[Delhi Radio]* 33

Iran

Reportage on Visit by Swiss Foreign Minister 34
Denounces 'Tyrannical' Iraqi Rulers *[IRNA]* 34
President Seeks Aid for Refugee Problem *[Tehran Radio]* 34
Reportage on Visit by EC Delegation 34
Velayati Meets With Delegation *[Tehran Radio]* 34
Luxembourg's Poos on Gulf Security *[IRNA]* 35
Velayati Calls For Aid for Kurds *[Tehran Radio]* 35
Delegation Departs *[IRNA]* 36
Velayati, Dumas Hold Phone Conversation on Iraq *[IRNA]* 36
* RESALAT Report on 21 Jan Majles Session *[22 Jan]* 36
* RESALAT Report on 23 Jan Majles Session *[24 Jan]* 41

Palestinian Affairs

Responses to Kuwaiti Reprisals Against Palestinians

Coalition Blamed for Maltreatment

LD0304175991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1802 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Brothers, in light of the escalating fever of revenge against Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait—children, women, and men—and following the terrifying news reported by foreign news agency correspondents on the incidents of torture to which Palestinian citizens are being subjected—which would make even the racists in South Africa proud—a spokesman for the PLO blamed all the countries which have troops on Kuwaiti territory for the crimes perpetrated against our people in Kuwait. The official spokesman urged all international forces and bodies and the leaders and masses of the Arab nation to shoulder their humanitarian responsibilities to stop the bloodshed in Kuwait by spiteful people who have forgotten God and have, consequently, forgotten themselves, and acted tyrannically in the country and against the worshippers without any conscience or feeling of pan-Arab or nationalist responsibility. [passage omitted]

While we express extreme anger at the silence of the UN secretary general, and that of the Arab and non-Arab allies—under whose eyes, filled with hatred, the massacre of our people is taking place—we blame the United Nations and all the countries which have troops in Kuwait for all that is taking place. We urge all peace-loving forces to move at maximum speed to stop the Palestinian bloodbaths in Kuwait.

Hawatimah Denounces Practices

NC0304152991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Amman—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has stated that our Palestinian community in Kuwait is being subjected to various forms of harassment, insults, and arrests, which claim that it has interfered to defend human rights and people and to entrench international legitimacy. [sentence as published]

In a statement to the press yesterday, Hawatimah denounced these shameful practices by some Kuwaiti circles against the Palestinian people in Kuwait, who have contributed to building and developing the country. He called for an immediate halt to these practices and urged all official circles, particularly the Kuwaiti Government, to shoulder their responsibilities regarding this issue.

"Destruction Policy" Assailed

AU2703112991 Vienna AZ in German 27 Mar 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "PLO in Vienna Accuses Kuwait"]

[Text] Tuesday [26 March], in Vienna, the PLO drew attention to the "policy of systematic destruction" against the Palestinians living in Kuwait. According to the human rights organization "Middle East Watch," the wave of revenge against the Palestinians continues in the liberated emirate. Although the Kuwaiti Government has taken countermeasures, the Palestinians are still tortured. Reportedly, slogans are burnt onto their bodies with red-hot burning irons and they are also forced to sit on bottles.

Statement Expresses Support for Lebanese Efforts

NC0304105591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Palestinian leadership held an expanded meeting in Tunis yesterday under Yasir 'Arafat with the participation of the PLO Executive Committee members; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The leadership issued a statement today stressing that the Lebanese Government's efforts to secure sovereignty, achieve stability, and liberate southern Lebanon from the occupiers deserve everyone's support in all fields.

In its statement, the Palestinian leadership expressed a sincere desire to reach a full understanding with the Lebanese Government through fraternal dialogue, to discuss all the issues related to all aspects of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the Palestinian citizens' interests and rights, and to restore normal and firm relations in all fields between the two fraternal peoples.

This positive Palestinian stand comes following the Lebanese Government's announcement of setting a timetable to disband all militias and armed organizations in Lebanon, which should turn over their weapons to the Lebanese Army to enable it to spread state control over all of Lebanon.

Algeria

Bendjedid Announces 27 Jun Election Date

LD0304201991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1925 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid to the nation—live]

[Text] Brother and sister citizens, at the end of last summer, after I consulted widely with political groups, I expressed my intention of organizing legislative elections when the necessary political conditions for holding the ballot in ordinary circumstances exist. Despite the Gulf crisis, which preoccupied the country for many months, we have followed the development of the internal situation with interest. We have also carried out an assessment of the current political situation throughout the country.

As a result of my desire and determination to widen and deepen the democratic course which will lead our country to the road of freedom, modernization, and development, I believe that the time has come to move to a new stage in building a law-governed state by electing a new National People's Assembly within the framework of political plurality, in accordance with the provisions of Article 120 of the Constitution.

The government has taken the necessary measures and steps to organize these elections. The legal and technical means necessary to ensure the sound progress of the ballot with the required degree of openness and determination have been adopted.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and after consultation with the speaker of the National People's Assembly and the prime minister, I have signed today the decree calling on voters to participate in early legislative elections on 27 June 1991.

It is obvious that these elections are of special importance and significance as they constitute an historical phase in the life of the nation and are at the same time considered a test for the future of democracy in our country.

Therefore, I call upon all political groups to be fully conscious of their huge responsibility at this critical stage which our country is facing. I call upon them to work calmly and quietly to safeguard the democratic principles and ideals and to consecrate such principles and ideals which must constitute the bases of the new society which we are seeking to build. I also urge them to eliminate any form of intolerance and violence to protect national unity and civil peace and to allow the elections to be held in an atmosphere of security which will allow citizens to fully exercise their duty and choose their real representatives freely and independently.

May God's peace be upon you.

FLN Party Chief Comments on Political Situation

LD3103111991 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 31/03/91 (APS)—The secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party, Abdelhamid Mehri, underlined the necessity at the approach of legislative elections to guarantee the stability for the country far from overbiddings of some political parties.

Abdelhamid Mehri, who was the guest of the TV program "Dialogue", pointed out concerning the criticism formulated towards the preparations of the elections, that there is a confusion between the prerogatives of the government and those of parties.

In this frame, he hoped to see the political parties take the initiative of debating the electoral law and the suggestions made by the government and give their opinion to the People's National Assembly.

Concerning the possibility of alliance between the FLN and other parties in the prospect of legislative elections, Mehri said there could only be an alliance on the basis of a program and projects likely to get the country out of the crisis and this can only happen after the elections. This, he said, is the aim of reforms, namely to get the country out of the crisis.

However, he expressed the readiness of the FLN to cooperate with the political forces which are close to it in the second round.

Mehri added that the situation of the FLN is better than the one previous to June 12 elections mainly after the process of renovation.

Moreover, he criticized the overtakings that happened during the cultural events of the holy month of Ramadan, pointing out that art and culture are neither a threat nor in contradiction with Islam.

Insisting again on the importance of reforms, Mehri said their aim is to improve the social and economic situation of the country. He added that the new economic rules are essentially aimed at bringing useful solutions to problems witnessed by the country.

In this context, he noted that political parties have a partial vision of these difficulties, often stick to problems such as the price increase.

Finally, he insisted on the necessity of a large sensibilization and a "greater vulgarization around the sense and aim of the reforms either from the part of the government, the political parties or the media. [no close quotation marks as received]

Baghdad Ambassador Replaced; Unrest Reported

PM0304100491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Qasiy Salih al-Darwish report: "Algeria's Ambassador in Baghdad Dismissed for Leaving for Tehran During Battles"]

[Excerpts] Paris, Algiers—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has dismissed Algeria's ambassador in Baghdad, General al-'Arabi Silhasan, because he left his post during the battles and fled Iraq across the Iranian border, heading for Tehran, without the Foreign Ministry's approval. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that President Bendjedid has appointed Hachemi Kaddouri the new ambassador to Baghdad. He worked in Baghdad for some time as charge d'affaires. He also served as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates before his return to the Foreign Ministry as ambassador.

Informed circles believe that the new ambassador is suitable for this new phase, first, because of his moderation and also because he is familiar with the issues and sensitivities of the region, as well as being an experienced diplomat.

Meanwhile, it has been announced in Algeria that 18 extremist fundamentalists, including two juveniles, have been arrested because of incidents of violence launched by a group of extremists in the Algerian capital while trying to obstruct a musical performance by the tribal singer, Ayat Menghlat, at the Atlas Cinema in the Bab al-Wad District, which is regarded as an [Islamic] Salvation Front stronghold belonging to Ali Belhaj, a prominent Salvation Front preacher.

A warrant has been issued to keep 13 people in custody pending an investigation. They have been charged with possessing banned arms, illegally wearing military uniforms, dirupting public order, and armed assembly.

The arrests came after Interior Minister Mohamed Saleh Mhamedi emphasized that the government would respond to violence with violence. But some political circles opposed to the government have criticized the security forces' delay in arresting the rioters, especially since the assaults and unrest were launched to prevent cultural and artistic activities during the month of Ramadan, as is traditional in the Arab Maghreb. There has been a repetition of such incidents recently. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Nominated for Arab League Post

NC0404050291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—A responsible source in the Arab League General Secretariat has stated that Egypt today officially nominated Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, for the post of Arab League secretary general, to replace Chedli Klibi who resigned the post in September.

In its Thursday edition, AL-AHRAM cites the same source as saying that As'ad al-As'ad, acting Arab League secretary general, was notified of the nomination during his meeting today with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid.

The source added that al-As'ad has distributed the Egyptian request to the 21 Arab League members. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Discusses Iraqi Terrorist Group

NC0304171291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that all terrorism cases, including the case of the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and the Iraqi sabotage networks, are now in the hands of the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office. This office is responsible for investigating them, preparing the indictments, and referring them to the courts.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, the interior minister said that the Iraqis have been involved in three recent terrorism operations. The first one involves 60 Egyptians who confessed that Iraqi intelligence recruited them and said they would detain their families in Baghdad until they carry out their mission. The second case involves one person: Captain 'Abbas Mul 'Uyuz, an intelligence officer in the Iraqi Republican Guards command.

The minister added that the third case concerns what is called the "Egyptian Ba'th Party." He said: I have decided to arrest six of the most active members of the party, which totaled some 80 members; that is, 74 members of this party have not been arrested. He noted that poet Muhammad 'Afifi Matar is among those arrested. Five others have been arrested until their legal status is established, after which they will either be referred to the prosecution or released.

Minister Musa said that the Iraqi intelligence officer, 'Abbas Mul 'Uyuz, has confessed that a team of intelligence officers from the Republican Guard and the Ba'th Party—where Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan is in charge of the Egypt desk—was formed to carry out acts of sabotage against Egypt. These acts were to include the assassination of a number of figures and ministers and the blowing up of vital Egyptian and Gulf facilities.

Writer Says Iraq in 'Dire Need' of Arab Help

NC0404110591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article on page 7 of AL-AHRAM about the current situation in Iraq, Mursi 'Atallah writes: Perhaps there is a need for the Arab nation now, more than ever before, to take note of what is currently happening in Iraq, because the issue is no longer the removal of Saddam Husayn. The more dangerous issue is that the Iraqi entity is now threatened with partition and fragmentation. This in itself is a catastrophe.

The writer says: It is logical and understandable that we do not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab country, since what is happening there is a matter of internal sovereignty. It might also be logical that the framework of sympathy in the Arab world could expand with any attempt inside Iraq to topple the tyrant—this tyrant who has harmed the interests of the Arab nation as no one has before. However, that is one thing, and allowing events to reach the stage of dividing Iraq is something else which is t ghtening and terrifying.

He goes on to say: We, in Egypt, asserted our stand clearly very early on through President Mubarak, who said clearly and honestly that Egypt strongly objects to any attempt to partition Iraq despite its commitment to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of others. This is where the moderation of the Egyptian stand emerges. This stand took a strong and firm stand against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and endured a great deal. Yet, the Egyptian stand represents the only glimmer of hope for building an Arab stand that will remove the danger represented by the partitioning of Iraq.

The writer says that Egypt's moderate stand has not emerged from a vacuum. It is not an expression of desire, but is the logic of realizing the results that could develop from dividing Iraq and which could harm the existence and future of the entire region. This moderation in the Egyptian stand will succeed in distinguishing between insistence on not dealing with the current Iraqi regime since it is a regime that cannot be trusted on the one hand, and between its firm hope that Iraq will soon return to the framework of Arab solidarity after the traces of invasion and aggression are dealt with on the other hand.

The writer notes the need for us to realize before it is too late that Iraq is in dire need of Arab support to get rid of a tribulation in which all legitimate signs of revolution are mixed with the dangers of chaos. We must also realize that even if Saddam Husayn's regime succeeds in regaining control over the various parts of the state, then this is less harmful than Saddam's fall and partition becoming a reality. This is because Saddam's ability to continue is only a matter of time. The new Iraq all Arabs want will undoubtedly rise from the ruins of defeat and ashes of revolution.

Paper Urges U.S. To Work for Israeli Withdrawal

NC0304142291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0704 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—In today's edition, AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the sluggishness in U.S. policy toward taking practical measures to bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will only lead to further tension and instability in the Middle East and, in turn, there will be no perpetuation of the new world order's principles in this region.

The paper says in its editorial that after the liberation of Kuwait the U.S. policy is now facing a real test concerning the application of the principles of the new world order that presume respect for the principles and rules of international law, on top of which is the inadmissibility of annexing other's land by force, and notes that it is now the turn of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The paper points out that the international community recognizes that these territories are under occupation and that Israel refuses to withdraw from them, and that there are Security Council resolutions demanding Israel's withdrawal.

The paper notes that the United States has stressed that there is no link between the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation and the liberation of the Arab territories from the Israeli occupation.

The paper says that the United States had asserted that the latter case would be dealt with after the liberation of Kuwait and, now that Kuwait is liberated, the United States has not honored its promises to the Arab countries which participated in the international alliance that liberated Kuwait. This, the paper adds, prompts us to say that the United States uses two measures for dealing with regional conflicts. This deserves to be looked at and reconsidered.

Columnist Says 'Arafat Remarks Cannot Be Forgiven

NC0404113291 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Apr 91 p 5

["A Word of Love" column, by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Excerpts] The Arab League met in Cairo. This was not news because it is natural for the Arab League to meet and for its meetings to be held in Cairo. Its meetings in Tunisia were an aberration. The strange news was the participation of a delegation from Iraq, another from Palestine, a third from Jordan, a fourth from Sudan, and a fifth from Yemen. The question is: Who do these delegations represent? Do they represent their people who are afflicted with illegitimate governments or do they represent governments that departed from the rules of logic, reason, morality, Arabdom, and Islam when

they supported Saddam? These governments are disgraceful because they perpetrated a crime by supporting falsehood. Did they come to represent this falsehood? [passage omitted]

We cannot prevent the meeting of the Arab League because it is now in its home and original headquarters where it was established, from where it fled, and to where it finally returned. Nevertheless, none of us accepts to hold the hands that are covered with the blood of the martyrs who fell in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

It might be said that Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel despite previous wars between them over a period of 30 years. However, who said that the Egyptians look on Israel with friendship or amity? The Egyptians regard this treaty as an end to the state of war with Israel, no more and no less. We have not heard that the Egyptians go to Israel or embrace the Jews. We have not heard that they have given away the occupied territories even if the owners of the occupied territories have disregarded these territories. The PLO is one thing and the intifadah is another. The PLO is concerned with collecting money but the intifadah is the most honorable, most noble, and greatest act of the Palestinian resistance because it proceeded from the facts on the ground and from the faith of people living in ugly conditions under occupation who found no way except revolution to express their rejection of this occupation. Meanwhile the PLO lives in five-star hotels. This is the difference and this is why Egypt sympathizes with the intifadah and the Palestinian people's rights but does not forgive what the PLO chairman said against Egypt. This is particularly true in view of the fact that the PLO represents only itself.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticizes Customs Duties

LD0304222791 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution stressed the need to abolish customs among all Arab countries and explained that the revenues from these customs benefit the governments, not the Arab citizen. He said that the Great Jamahiriyah had abolished customs at the destruction of the gateway of the imaginary borders between Libya and Egypt and pointed out that from that moment restrictions and customs on the movement of citizens and goods between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt were abolished. It has become possible for citizens in Egypt and Libya to exchange goods freely and without any restriction or condition. He confirmed that this should apply to all Arab countries.

In his lecture to students and staff of the Political Science Department at Nasir International University yesterday, the brother leader dealt with the issue of currency. He confirmed the need to abolish dealings in the dollar and adopt the Libyan Arab and the Egyptian currency in commercial exchanges between citizens in the two countries. He announced that banks in the Great Jamahiriyah will take it upon themselves to settle this matter. The brother leader made clear that the dollar was not imposed on us, but we imposed it on ourselves. He pointed out that if the use of the dollar is inescapable, the dinar should be burned and the dollar should be adopted. He confirmed that dealing in dollars is colonialism and enslavement. The brother leader confirmed that dealings between citizens in Egypt and Libya should be in Libyan, Egyptian, and other Arab currencies, so that commercial exchanges among Arab countries are conducted in the Arab currency and dealing in the dollar is abandoned.

[Begin recording] [al-Qadhdhafi] Who benefits from customs? This is a product which came from Egypt. It was bought by an Egyptian for five [currency not specified]. He brings it to Libya to sell it. Libya asks him to pay customs on it. How much? Pay, for instance, three. How much has its price become? Eight. Thus when he sells it, he sells for 10. Has it doubled in price or not? Its price has gone up from five to 10. At whose expense?

[Students] At the expense of the consumer.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] At the expense of the consumer. First we took three from the pocket of the ordinary Egyptian Arab citizen. Then we took five from the pocket of the ordinary Libyan citizen who is the consumer. What I want you to know is the myth of the customs, customs, customs, which the leaders do not want to abolish. The governments do not want to abolish the customs among the Arab countries. Why? Because those five are in fact taken by the state, and in very few cases one finds a state which spends them on its people. With this money the state sets up police, secret police, intelligence, handcuffs, and prisons. By God, most of the governments' budget are spent on these things. Had governments spent their budgets on the people, the people would have prospered. Governments hold fast to customs as a source of income. We want the ordinary citizen to understand that he has no interest in customs between Tunisia and Libya, Algeria and Libya, Sudan and Libya, or Morocco and Libya. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kuwait

Iran Offers Oil Industry Reconstruction Aid

LD0304182491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Our country's ambassador to Kuwait, Mr. Hoseyn Sadeqi, in a meeting yesterday with the Kuwaiti foreign minister, discussed current Persian Gulf regional issues, bilateral ties, and ways of returning Iranians who were residing in Kuwait.

Our country's ambassador, noting the scientific and practical experiences of Iran's oil experts regarding oil installation reconstruction, declared Iran's readiness for all-around cooperation in offering specialized and technical services for Kuwait's reconstruction.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister, expressing gratitude, praised the dispatch of the Iranian oil expert delegation to Kuwait and expressed hope that the delegation can start its work as soon as possible.

Palestinians Urged To Judge 'Deceitful' Leaders

PM0304161791 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Mar 91 pp 1, 6

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "A Word of Truth That Should Be Spoken"]

[Excerpts] Among the difficult issues which we all must take courage and tackle is the issue of the Palestinian presence in Kuwait. There has been much talk about it in the world press, with both good and bad intent. It is being pursued by some writers who want to disrupt the new and healthy relations among the Arabs which emerged after the coalition forces' victory over the dictator of Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly a number of the Kuwaitis were harmed as a result of the behavior and practices of some Palestinians in Kuwait. And it is unreasonable to forget that without thorough examination. It is also unreasonable for us to agree with the lost and deceitful leadership on the transfer of thousands of Palestinians to Kuwait from numerous areas in cooperation with the Iraqi and other regimes in order to flood Kuwait with a new illegal presence.

And I am certain that the majority of the Palestinians in Kuwait have nothing to do with what the lost and deceitful leadership wanted to do to delude the world. That leadership continues to make these endeavors despite the lawful Kuwaiti Government's repeated announcements that the rule of law prevails.

And if the wound is to be healed and if we are all to move to the stage of tending the wound and rising above what has passed, we can say nothing except that there is an essential condition for doing so, namely that good and positive Palestinian elements—and there are many of them—judge that leadership, just as the Iraqi people are doing now with their leadership, in more than one place. And if it was terrorism that made many people keep silent in the past out of fear or out of the desire to safeguard personal interests instead of declaring the truth, the time has come to make that declaration and to emphasize that a leadership that can only lead to ruin and devastation at difficult times can never realize the interests of its people, thus its continuation is a real contradiction to those interests.

Kuwait City Airport To Reopen 15 Apr

LD0304224191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2040 GMT 3 Apr 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] The QNA correspondent in Kuwait learned from responsible government sources that Kuwait City International Airport will begin receiving civil aircraft on 15 April. The sources explained that in the first phase of making the airport operational again, two gates, out of the original 11, will be opened in Terminal two of the airport, and that another four gates will be opened subsequently, God willing.

Saudi Arabia

Reported Prince Bandar Trip to Jerusalem 'Untrue'

LD0404010891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0020 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Apr (SPA)—There is no truth whatsoever in the report by the weekly AKHIR KHABAR, which is published in Cyprus and distributed in the Jordanian capital, that Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, the Kingdom's ambassador to Washington, visited occupied Jerusalem last Thursday [28 March] and conferred with a number of Palestinian personalities there. The above statement was made today to SPA by an authoritative source, who added that such news was fabricated and categorically untrue.

United Arab Emirates

General Schwarzkopf Arrives in Abu Dhabi 2 Apr

NC0204155991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 2 Apr (WAKH)—General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Central Forces and commander of the coalition forces in the battle for the liberation of Kuwait, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a several-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Meets With President

NC0304185991 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 3 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al

Nuhayyan last night received here General Norman Schwarzkopf allied commander of Operation Desert Storm, which led to the liberation of Kuwait, and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting discussed the situation in the Gulf region following the liberation of sisterly Kuwait, security arrangements in the aftermath of the Gulf war in addition to ways of boosting cooperation and the friendly bonds between the UAE and the United States.

President Shaykh Zayid praised the great role played by the United States towards the Gulf crisis and expressed his appreciation for the policy pursued by the allies which led to the liberation of Kuwait and restoration of it legitimate government.

He affirmed that history will record the noble role played by the U.S. Armed Forces alongside with their allied forces in the war which led to the liberation of Kuwait.

General Schwarzkopf thanked President Shaykh Zayid for the honourable role played by the UAE air and land forces in the battle to liberate Kuwait.

He also praised the assistance given by the UAE to the American forces, affirming that the American people would never forget the assistance of the UAE people during the Gulf crisis.

President Shaykh Zayid decorated General Schwarzkopf with indepence sash in appreciation of his heroic role in the battle for the liberation of Kuwait.

Discusses Iraq With Defense Minister

NC0304193291 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 3 (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is opposed to foreign "interference" in the internal affairs of Iraq, Defence Minister Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum said Wednesday.

The minister, quoted by the official news agency WAM, was speaking to U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of allied forces in the Gulf.

"It is necessary that Iraq remains a united, stable and prosperous country. The Emirates is careful not to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq or any other brother country," he said.

Iraq has accused Iran and other countries of instigating an anti-government revolt that erupted in the wake of the Gulf war. Tehran has denied the charge while voicing political support for Kurdish and Shi'ite Moslem rebels.

The UAE defence minister and Gen. Schwarzkopf also discussed the post-war military situation in the Gulf and cooperation between Abu Dhabi and Washington, WAM reported.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan met here earlier with the U.S. general, praising the allied campaign that drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in late February.

The UAE served as a staging post for some of the U.S.-led multinational forces that fought Iraq.

The visit by Gen. Schwarzkopf came amid reports that Washington would sign an agreement with a Gulf state, probably Bahrain, for the forward basing of some of its Central Command operations.

The U.S. commander has already visited Oman, Bahrain and Qatar on a tour of Gulf Arab states.

Yemen

UN Envoy Urges Rejection of Draft Resolution

EA0304165691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our country's delegate to the United Nations Security Council, has affirmed that the proposed American draft resolution for a cease-fire in the Gulf is very unjust to Iraq. In a telephone interview with Amman Radio, he pointed out that consultations on the draft resolution have been going on until now and will continue tomorrow. The draft resolution may be submitted for voting the day after tomorrow. It may be approved in the meeting. A number of states will abstain from voting, but it is also almost certain that the draft will be approved.

Commenting on the draft resolution, Brother al-Ashtal said: It is very unjust to Iraq. There are a number of points that are being laid down for the first time with regard to the Security Council—for example, the issue of delineating and guaranteeing borders by the Security Council. This issue is a matter that has never been effected previously. Indeed, it does not come under the Security Council's jurisdiction because such questions are solved either by negotiation between the parties concerned or through arbitration or the International Court of Justice. He said the draft does not lead to lifting the embargo; rather, it approves what had previously been agreed upon by the embargo committee. Nor does it take into consideration the needs of the Iraqi people.

Brother 'Abdallah al-Ashtal added in his telephone interview with Amman Radio that when dealing with the issue of reparations, the American draft resolution does not refer this question to the quarters concerned in the International Court of Justice; rather, it specifies a committee through the General Secretariat to look into this, which is a matter that is being effected for the first time, in addition to the fact that the draft does not clearly specify the withdrawal of the allied forces from Iraq. It also fails to lay down a deadline for stopping military operations; rather, it only agrees to or approves a cease-fire. He said the draft should be rejected from many aspects.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Top Officials 3 Apr

Statement Issued

NC3004161791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn today chaired a meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president; Sa'dun Hammadi, prime minister and an RCC member; Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir; and Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi. The meeting participants discussed the latest Iraqi and global political developments. Following the meeting, an official spokesman issued the following statement:

The gangs of treason and sabotage that have lived off the leftovers of the foreigners and were in the past manipulated politically by anti-Iraq countries, and who, once again, miscalculated and got themselves in trouble, have exploited the temporary circumstances resulting from the aggression and entered northern Iraqi cities. There they engaged in disgraceful criminal acts against the lives and security of Kurdish citizens and the areas that came under their control for a few days. They carried out acts against the Kurdish citizens' property and honor and against state property and employees.

The state has had to assert itself and fulfill its responsibilities by upholding law and order nationwide and freeing the citizens from the recklessness and criminality of the armed gangs. Therefore, the state took the necessary measures to restore security and order in Karkuk, Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah. With state authority and law and order restored throughout the dear northern part of our country, the military action the government had to take to put down insurrection and sabotage in the North has thus fulfilled its purpose. The spokesman said the gang leaders presiding over the sabotage, whose hopes and projects and suspect plans have been thwarted, have sought to spread panic and biased rumors among the populace in these cities. These rumors are that the state will victimize everyone, without discriminating between saboteurs and citizens, and that the Armed Forces will target whoever is found in locations where acts of sabotage have been committed.

We would like to emphasize that the overwhelming majority of the Kurdish citizens in the cities and villages of the governorates of Karkuk, Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah have not cooperated with the gangs of agentry and sabotage in the few days they were there. Neither have they been affected by the rumors and falsehoods the gangs had spread. Our citizens in the northern part of the homeland had a similar experience in 1988. Some citizens may have believed these rumors and falsehoods or were forced into leaving their cities under the threat of the use of force by the gangs of sabotage and agentry, as they did on previous occasions with the aim of shuffling the cards so that the Armed Forces would find it hard to distinguish between these gangs and citizens to make it easier for these gangs to flee across the border.

The spokesman said: It is understood that the citizens in the cities and the areas where law and order have been reestablished need not worry about their lives, property, and legal rights, regardless of whether they stayed in the cities and villages or left them. The official authorities will not hold anyone accountable for anything other than crimes of murder, war, rape, and theft, or raised arms against the state and law. We call on those who have left their homes in the northern cities and villages to return to live in peace and share the victory and security with everyone else.

Commenting on statements and news reports from certain foreign quarters concerning the situation in the North, the spokesman said: Hostile foreign quarters, who one way or another had a hand in the aggression and scheming against Iraq, and who have found that the hopes they held out for the gangs of rebelliousness and sabotage have been so suddenly and unexpectedly dashed, will want to resume their media and political and psychological crusade against Iraq, in the name of a false concern for Iraqi citizens and humanitarian considerations.

These quarters cannot be bothered with what has happened to 18 million Iraqis as a result of the treacherous American-Atlantist aggression, nor with the destruction of livelihoods, but profess spurious and dubious interest in a number of Iraqis after they have become outside Iraq in the circumstances we have described. The spokesman said this propaganda is another link in the chain of conspiracies against Iraq, which are now being hatched under the umbrella of the UN Security Council. This is in addition to the links in the chain of the American-Atlantist aggression. The spokesman appealed to the neighboring states to disassociate themselves from these plans to spare their relations with Iraq.

Saddam Meets Defense Minister, Officers

NC3004163691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1622 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has met with Defense Minister Staff General Tu'mah 'Abbas and a number of the Armed Forces General Command members.

Al-Majid Says 'External Sides' Aiding Rebellion

NC3004103691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has said that Iraq has material evidence revealing the link between the perpetrators of the criminal operations in northern Iraq and external sides.

Minister al-Majid told INA in the northern area that vehicles owned by [ta'udu milkiyatuha] the authorities of a neighboring country have been confiscated. These vehicles, he said, were used by saboteurs to carry out their criminal acts. The vehicles were abandoned by the saboteurs who, fleeing from the Iraqi forces, could not take the vehicles with them across the border.

The seizure of these vehicles, the interior minister noted, provides material evidence that these gangs infiltrated Iraq from across the borders. The gangs were trying to implement a suspect imperialist plan that has the same goals as the Zionist-imperialist scheme against Iraq and its people.

Government Officials Continue Regional Visits

Ibrahim Tours Al-Sulaymaniyah

NC0304211491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy general commander of the armed forces, entered al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate at 1400 today to end the last stage of the purging operation of the gangs of agents in the northern part of the homeland.

He and his accompanying delegation toured the streets and roads of the beloved city. The sons of our Kurdish people living in the governorate welcomed him warmly with shrills and cheers. The people hailed President Saddam Husayn, the victorious leader with the grace of God, may the Almighty protect him. The people expressed their anger at and denunciation of the deeds of the agent gangs in their beautiful governorate.

During his meeting with a group of military commanders, Ibrahim said the full purging of al-Sulaymaniyah of agent saboteurs who are allied with foreigners marks a glorious day on which our sons, who are concerned for our homeland and its unity, added a bright and honorable chapter to the record of pride in every particle of dust in the valley and mountain. Thanks to their blessed strong arms, the scoundrels were defeated in every pocket they entered or [word indistinct] in which they stayed.

Ibrahim added: This day was the last moment in which the valiant crushed the last pit of deception. The homeland, from the far North to the far South, has been purged of them.

Ibrahim added that the events which took place in the beloved North will never be repeated, because the sons of our Kurdish people have realized that this agent clique only cuased them concern, instability, and suffering. [word indistinct] stand firmly against their falsifications and delusions and will pursue them until they throw them outside the homeland. They will not let their foul feet step on an inch of the homeland's soil in the future.

The RCC deputy chairman said: Praise be to God who helped the Iraqis consolidate their great national unity. May the Almighty protect Iraq against the conspiracies of the enemies who harbor evil toward the Iraqis. Praise be to God, whose providence preserved President leader Saddam Husayn so that he can resume his struggling role in defending the nation's gains and providing the necessary requirements for its awakening and for building its ideal civilization.

Trade Minister Visits Dahuk

NC0304152091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Dahuk, 3 Apr (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih visited Dahuk Governorate today.

While there the minister met with the governor, the secretary of the Ba'th Party branch, and officials in charge of commercial branches in the governorate. The participants stressed the need to speed up the necessary measures for the distribution of flour and other foodstuffs to the citizens and to assess the damages suffered by the commercial shop at the hands of the agent saboteur gangs.

The INA correspondent in the governorate reported that today the Trade Ministry began to transport large quantities of flour for distribution to the citizens there [words indistinct] shops that were destroyed by the saboteurs who came from across the borders.

It is recalled that world news agencies have recently reported that the saboteurs [words indistinct] moved thousands of tons of foodstuff across the borders to neighboring countries. They also reported that other large quantities [words indistinct] before being smuggled out.

Deputy Premier Visits Dhi Qar

NC0304173291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubayri today visited the Dhi Qar Governorate and a number of service departments there. He inspected the reconstruction and maintenance work being carried out to repair the damages inflicted on the state's departments by the saboteurs and [words indistinct].

The deputy prime minister met with a number of officials and citizens and was briefed on their urgent requirements. He called for the mobilization of resources and capabilities for the sake of Iraq's dignity and glory under the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn. He said that the acts of (?terror) and destruction will not deter the Iraqis from continuing on the country's new course behind President struggler Saddam Husayn.

Education Minister Inspects Babil Schools

NC0304152791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Following the resumption of classes in the Babil Governorate's schools, Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz visited a number of schools to see the progress of studies there.

During his meeting with a number of teachers, the minister urged incresing efforts to raise the educational standard and stimulate the student's educational and scientific aptitude.

The minister earlier met with Babil Governor Salih Khalil (al-Khayyim) who briefed him on the extent of the sabotage and looting inflicted on the schools by the evil mobsters and on the efforts that have been exerted by the governorate's Education General Directorate, in cooperation with the municipal authority, to remedy and repair the damage.

Official Meets Chieftains in Salah-Al-Din

NC0304163491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Comrade Kamil Yasin al-Rashid, member of the B'ath Party Regional Command and secretary of the party's central branch, has emphasized that the imperialist-Zionist plot against the unity of great Iraq and its immaculate heritage has failed. During a large gathering of tribal chiefs in Salah-al-Din Governorate, al-Rashid said that the great Iraqi people's steadfastness and sacrifices, thanks to the historical leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, have thwarted the plot that targeted the Iraqi people's culture and character.

The comrade member of the party's regional command lauded our people's heroic role and their profound and firm faith in the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn as they courageously confronted the imperialist-Zionist plot and thwarted its suspect scheme to destroy Iraq's unity.

The governorate's masses expressed their great pride in the historical leadership of President Saddam Husayn and their constant readiness to make sacrifices and sacrifice themselves under the banner of God is great.

Al-Sulaymaniyah Completely Purged of 'Saboteurs'

NC0304132891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—INA has learned that our valiant forces today completely purged the treasonous saboteurs, who have wrought havoc here, from the city of al-Sulaymaniyah.

Our troops were given a huge welcome by our loyal Kurdish people, who were chanting the name of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the builder of Iraq's glory, and symbol of its unity, dignity, and pride.

An INA correspondent reports that the saboteurs and traitors in a panic fled ignominiously to the mountains, where they were chased by our Kurdish tribes and people.

Electricity, Water Restored to Some Karkuk Areas

NC0404111191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Karkuk, 4 Apr (INA)—Mr. Hashim Hasan al-Majid, governor of al-Ta'mim Governorate, has said that electricity and water services have been restored to some city neighborhoods from which saboteurs had been flushed out.

The governor told INA that 40 percent of Karkuk's residential areas now receive drinking water, and work is in progress to serve the rest of the city. Meanwhile, technical teams have reconnected telephone lines and removed the debris from the streets and public squares left behind by acts of vandalism.

An INA correspondent in the governorate reports that school classes have resumed in certain neighborhoods, and that it is again business as usual in the markets, the commercial district, and hospitals.

Commentary: Security Council 'Morally Responsible'

NC0404110391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The UN Security Council has recently become a competition arena for the anti-Iraq coalition states. Its halls have become platforms for speeches, and trial courts for the issuance of unjust judgements and resolutions against Iraq—not for any sin it has committed, but as a result of the domination of the law of the jungle, not legitimacy, and the reasoning of strength, not truth.

Instead of the UN Security Council supporting Iraq, instead of its sessions and offices being tribunals for justice, instead of Iraq being the complaining party—and it did complain—and the oppressed party that was targeted by aggression—and this is what happened—Iraq was placed in the dock today by brute force.

Accusations have been leveled at it from all sides. This is one of the biggest departures in the history of the Security Council.

At a time when the Security Council is continuing its [word indistinct] debate in the face of Washington's insistence on the adoption of its draft resolution for an official declaration of a cease-fire, other suspect voices have risen here and there, kicking up a new storm about the situation inside Iraq. At a time when the American White House has opened its doors to the symbols of treason and the mercenaries, who were rejected by the homeland and cast out by the people, feverish attempts

are taking place in the halls of the international organization and in the Security Council aimed at tossing a life raft to the agents, hooligans, and mercenaries who were besieged and eliminated by the people's forces and their armed forces. These attempts are taking place immediately after hooliganism has been terminated and the agents and rebellion has been eliminated in the south and north.

Thus, the link between the plot to dismember Iraq and the Zionist-American-Atlantic scheme has become clearer than at any time before. When the members of this alliance found out that Iraq is stronger than the plot [words indistinct] which exceeded even what happened in their past attempts, they acted quickly [words indistinct] in which Iraq has place them.

Iraq is more entitled to complain about what has been inflicted upon it and against the aggression it faced [words indistinct] plots and sabotage. The internal events in Iraq complemented the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression, sponsored and approved by the UN Security Council in a brief time [words indistinct] which the world is passing through today. These actions were synonymous with and complementary to the aggression. These actions took place by the trembling bats in the dark under the cover, sponsorship, support, and blessing of the aggression, and under the umbrella of the military measures and armed threats against Iraq. The truth is that were it not for the aggression that is still taking place against a part of our territory, and the comprehensive and savage destruction which Iraq has faced, the hooligans and agents would not have been encouraged, and what happened in Iraq would not have happened.

Therefore, the UN Security Council, represented by a state, is officially, practically, and morally responsible for the events that took place in Iraq, because it was the direct cause of these events. When some of the aggressor states shed tears for their mercenaries and agents—who were torn apart and expelled by the Iraqi people's forces—they are doing this in line with their position, plans, and aggression. Instead of being ashamed at the results of their actions and of the harm and dangers they have caused to Iraq—or instead of at least keeping silent—the aggression states set the reins free by returning to the arena of aggression as if what they had done was not enough and has not satisfied their appetite.

The Iraqi people and all the forces in the free world cannot keep silent about this injustice [passage indistinct]. The talk about criminal elements, saboteurs, agents, and hooligans by Western and American circles has come too late. They all have been preoccupied. The trumpets of [word indistinct] are useless. Will they learn their lesson?

Responses to Draft Cease-Fire Resolution Cited

Called 'Extremely Unfair'

NC0404072791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—AL-'IRAQ described the new U.S. draft resolution as "a new link in the conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation."

In an article today commenting on the draft resolution, the paper says that the U.S. draft resolution is unjust. It creates imbalance and dissatisfaction in the Arab region. It once again confirms the extent of the U.S. Administration's aggressiveness and plotting against Iraq, the conscious vanguard, and against the hopes and interests of the Arab nation.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration is assiduously seeking to impose its hegemony in the region after having imposed total hegemony on the United Nations and the Security Council by securing a series of unjust resolutions against Iraq. The paper explains that this administration was not content with all its criminal actions against civilian installations and residential targets: killing innocent children, women, and elders, and destroying Iraq's infrastructure. It has continued its crimes through the draft resolution it has submitted to the UN Security Council for a final cease-fire.

AL-'IRAQ says: Instead of discussing the issue of limiting weapons of mass destruction in a comprehensive framework affecting all the countries of the region, including the Zionist entity, the Bush administration sought through the Security Council to turn the spotlight on Iraq alone, and made the council deal with the issues of the world on the basis of two standards and scales through its draft resolution.

The paper adds: The draft resolution is extremely unfair to Iraq. The articles of the resolution are unprecedented in the history of the UN Security Council regarding the demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait and guaranteeing these borders. This is despite everyone's conviction that such matters can only be resolved through negotiations among the parties concerned.

The paper also notes that the draft resolution did not provide for lifting economic sanctions against Iraq—thus ignoring and turning a blind eye to the needs of the Iraqi people—because the resolution is inhuman and proposed by those who are seeking to continue the blockade.

Assailed as 'Epitome of U.S. Hatred'

NC0404081391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the UN Security Council cease-fire draft resolution is a U.S. resolution that aims

to impose direct U.S. hegemony on the region and control the world's affairs, destinies, and resources.

In an editorial today, the paper says the resolution gives the U.S. Administration more "rights" than it has under international law, charters, and conventions. Indeed, the resolution gives it more rights than it gave itself in the previous resolutions it imposed on Iraq in the months precededing the aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Iraq officially expressed strong reservations about a number of clauses in the U.S. draft resolution. The reservations are based on the feeling that this draft resolution represents the epitome of U.S. hatred and aggressive and hegemonic tendencies and all the major conspiracies against Iraq and the Arab nation. These conspiracies will have ill, far-reaching effects on the affairs of many countries, even those supporting the United States.

The paper concludes: If the international parties that participated with the United States in the aggression against Iraq believe the U.S. draft resolution does not (?concern) them, then they are pawning their destinies to U.S. wishes, and they should be wary of this. International organizations must seek to expose this conspiracy through various means instead of continuing to implement it.

UN Envoy Voices 'Strong Reservations'

NC0204183191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has informed the president of the UN Security Council [UNSC] of Iraq's strong reservations regarding some of the clauses in the U.S. cease-fire draft resolution that is before the council.

In statements to journalists after his meeting with the UNSC president for this month—the Belgian ambassador—Iraq's UN representative said that he informed the UNSC president of Iraq's reservations on the cease-fire resolution, especially the clause stipulating that the UNSC will define international borders.

The INA correspondent in New York says the Iraqi representative explained that Iraq has not ratified the 1963 minutes [not further identified] and that international law does not regard unratified minutes as binding, nor does it define borders in accordance with minutes that are not officially ratified.

The correspondent added that Iraq also opposes the continuation of the economic blockade, as called for in the draft resolution. He said that the continuation of the economic blockade against the Iraqi people is an inhuman act that raises serious questions about the humanity of those working to continue it.

He noted that the draft resolution does not provide for the end to the war, but only for a cease-fire. This is true despite the fact that the UNSC had pledged a complete cessation of hostilities in resolution 686.

The UNSC members did not continue their meetings on the new U.S. draft resolution against Iraq last night because the nonaligned countries had not completed their study of the draft resolution. The INA correspondent added that the representatives of the nonaligned countries—Cuba, Yemen, Ecuador, India, Zaire, and the Ivory Coast—met last night and discussed the draft resolution and proposed some amendments. They agreed to submit these amendments during a meeting with representatives of the three UNSC permanent members: The United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. The correspondent explained that the nonaligned countries' demands center on the need to lift the economic sanctions because, as Yemeni Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal stated, Iraq has already suffered greatly from the destruction. He said that the economic sanctions against the Iraqi people should be lifted in accordance with the recommendations that UN Ambassador Martti Ahtisaari made after his visit to Iraq.

The correspondent added that the representatives of the Nonaligned Movement met last night with representatives from the Soviet Union, the United States, and the UK during which the latter replied to the questions raised. It has been reported that the Soviet ambassador is waiting to receive new instructions on his country's stand on the resolution from his government. The INA correspondent also noted that consultations are scheduled to resume today. Diplomatic sources reported that the UNSC president intends to hold a UNSC meeting to vote on the draft resolution tomorrow, Wednesday, 3 April.

GCC Decision To Stop Aid to Jordan, PLO Criticized

NC0304130191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the Gulf Cooperation Council regimes' decision to stop their assistance to Jordan and the PLO because of their support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis, was neither strange nor surprising.

In an article today under the headline "Not a Surprising Decision," the paper added that it would really have been surprising if these corrupt regimes had not stopped this assistance after they slipped into the quagmire of shame and betrayed the Arab nation, its human heritage, and its values, and transformed the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Gulf waters into a springboard for a treacherous aggression against Iraq, which represents Arabism's honor, vitality, and resourcefulness and its ability to progress and face challenges.

The paper said that Jordan and the PLO could not relinquish or bargain over their stands for financial benefit and could not pawn their principles for a handful of aid because these principles spring from deep, renewable conviction in Arab and Islamic values and the

pan-Arab concepts that made it incumbent on them to side with Iraq, which, under the pressure of treacherous plots against its people and resources, was forced to strike at one of the dens of these plotters.

The paper pointed out that Jordan, like the PLO, Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania and other Arab countries that supported and backed Iraq, realizes that standing by Iraq is standing by oneself, that supporting Iraq is supporting right, justice, history, and the future. Therefore, Jordan from the beginning decided to face all possible economic and non-economic, political and non-political pressures resulting from its position.

The paper noted that the Gulf regimes imagine they can make Jordan and the PLO pay the price of their noble pan-Arab stands and their commitment to the principles of Arab brotherhood and joint fate by stopping assistance to them. However, these corrupt regimes cannot imagine the cost of their treasonous stands and the big crime they committed when they opened the Arab land to the barbarous American and Zionist invaders and the remnants of the Western colonialists in order to desecrate it and violate the holiest Arab and Islamic shrines.

The paper emphasized that Jordan will remain steadfast and will continue to be proud of its people and noble stands, and that the PLO is continuing to carry out its duties for the sake of Palestine. And although the handful of dollars they obtained was their right and the right of other Arab states, it will not undermine their steadfastness and strong determination.

Amnesty Granted to Army Deserters From Zakho

NC0304210791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Zakho, Northern Iraq, 3 Apr (INA)—It has been decided to issue an amnesty for army deserters and those who failed to report to their military units from the Zakho District in Dahuk Governorate.

This was announced by Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid during his meeting today at Zakho district center with Dahuk Governor Muhammad Bayrur Rustum and a number of governorate officials.

The INA correspondent cited 'Ali Hasan al-Majid as saying at the meeting that the decision has been made as a tribute to the honorable role of the Zakho sons in defending their city against the agent gangs of sabotage.

The interior minister ordered that restoration of all services in the district and (?distribution) of food and supplies to citizens be implemented as quickly as possible.

The minister toured the city and inspected the services given the citizens in all fields, particularly food, supplies, and medical services. In their slogans and chants, the masses of the city hailed President Saddam Husayn and our heroic armed forces for purging the cities of our beloved north from the desecration of the spiteful agents.

Representative Comments on Arab League Meetings

NC0304154391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab desk at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, has said that his attendance at the recent Cairo Arab League meetings is normal and needs no explanations. He made this statement to the newspaper AL-AHALI, organ of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, which is an opposition party.

Hammudi added that the council's meetings were held within the framework of an ordinary session, and that the agenda did not include any discussion on the outcome of the Gulf war. He said that he was pleased that the results of the Gulf war were not discussed at the meeting out of a concern for a positive and unanimous Arab position at the first Arab meeting following the crisis.

Asked whether his participation in the meetings means that Iraq has waived its call for suspending the decision on the Arab League's return to its original headquarters, he said that this issue is now over and that the circumstances when this call was made were different than the current circumstances.

Opposition Radio on Saddam's Speech to Cabinet

NC0204224491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1947 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] In a move unprecedented in the history of his regime, Saddam has admitted clearly and directly how deep our people's uprising is and how effective it has been against his regime's stability and future.

In a short speech before what he called the first meeting of the new Cabinet, Saddam said that the present was difficult and that the citizens had lost security, dignity, and their source of livelihood. In his short speech, which was broadcast by the charlatans' radio in Baghdad on [word indistinct], he expressed his anger and resentment with our revolutinaries and their gains. Saddam admitted that he [word indistinct] in the North and South.

It is to be noted that the tyrant for the first time admitted that the uprising has spread and that all the cities in the north and south have escaped the authority of the regime and of the civil administration. He also admitted that his gangs' control has receded as there are no signs of the regime's authority except in positions where tanks, artillery, and heavy machine guns are deployed [words indistinct] and in their squares and main streets.

Clashes Continue in Al-Basrah, Neighboring Towns

LD0304113491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Clashes between Ba'thist and popular forces continued in al-Basrah and nearby towns, including al-Tannumah, last night. According to an IRNA report, explosions were heard in Khorramshahr throughout last night.

Iraqi refugees who have come to Iran from that area said: The Ba'thist forces attacked the people with heavy weapons such as long-range artillery pieces. As a result a number of people were martryed or wounded and some residential areas were destroyed.

'Acts of Resistance' Reported

NC0404074691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Since early this morning, the steadfast city of al-Basrah has been the scene of extensive attacks against the regime's pockets of resistance and hiding gangs. The violent revolutionary escalation of our struggling people's intifadah came while acts of resistance are renewing in many southern cities and spreading to the centers of major cities, districts, and subdistricts, despite the fact that the regime's tanks are stationed in city squares and streets.

Clashes and courageous acts of resistance are continuing. Sounds of shooting and sporadic artillery shelling were heard throughout the day. In an urgent report from Abu-al-Khasib, our heroic revolutionaries raided a regime unit, destroying a tank, an armored vehicle, two medium-range DSHK's [heavy machine guns], and a (?B-70). They also inflicted heavy casualties on Saddam's gangs.

Meanwhile, our revolutionary people in Abu-al-Khasib have recorded epics of heroism and sacrifice. A zealous young man from the city carried out a bomb attack against another headquarters of the authority gangs. Ten regime mercenaries were killed in the attack.

In another manifestation of the developing resistance in al-Basrah and the escalation of the uprising, our brave, steadfast revolutionaries carried out a surprise attack against the headquarters of a battalion stationed in the center of the city. Two personnel carriers and a vehicle were destroyed, and several soldiers were killed.

Among the acts of the all-out resistance in al-Basrah today, a group of the heroic sons of the city confronted two personnel carriers and a military vehicle while rushing to assist the headquarters of the battalion attacked by our revolutionaries. They killed more than 20 members of the regime gangs. Greetings to the sons of steadfast al-Basrah toward further victories against the defeated remnants of the enemy!

A group of our heroic revolutionaries monitored a position [words indistinct] Republican Guard near [words indistinct] factory. They suddenly attacked the position and controlled it after destroying a sniper position, a DSHK position, and five personnel positions. When four mercenaries from the said regiment tried to escape far from the position through a small boat, our revolutionaries fired intensively at them, sinking the boat with its occupants.

Meanwhile, our revolutionaries are continuing their courageous acts against the regime's remnants and losing gangs. In the (al-Nashwah) area of al-Basrah, our revolutionaries attacked the headquarters of the 6th Battalion of the 20th Brigade, destroying it and killing its commander. One tank, two personnel carriers, the commander's car, and another car were destroyed in the attack. Several wounded and bodies of four soldiers were seen on the battlefield.

Army Reportedly Raids Al-Najaf Shrine

LD0204212291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Ba'thist forces of the Iraqi Army and Iraq's Republican Guards, using several tanks, broke down one of the doors of the sacred shrine of His Holiness 'Ali, God's peace be on him, in the honorable al-Najaf and then entered the blessed shrine, killing and capturing a number of Muslim people who had taken refuge in that holy place.

Several Iraqis who have taken refuge in Iran said in an interview with an IRNA reporter that last week Saddam's forces fired 35 Scud missiles at al-Najaf as they tried to suppress the people's uprising. The Scuds inflicted damage on the city and killed or injured a number of people [passage omitted]

Shamir, Sharon on Iraqi 'Massacre' of Kurds

TA0304183591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has expressed his anger and shock at the massacre of the Kurdish people and at the international community's continuing silence. Mr. Shamir this evening said that what is taking place in Iraq should teach all of us that in this part of the world one cannot count on receiving aid from external sources. The prime minister added that the fact that Saddam Husayn can continue to run amok proves that the work in Iraq is not yet done.

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon also reacted and said that the world has to take action immediately to stop the slaughter. The world's silence does not serve to encourage Israel in its political moves.

Shamir: U.S. Job Not Finished

TA0404110191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem are highly critical of Washington's refusal to help the Kurds. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity. But, at the cabinet level, Prime Minister Shamir said the job in Iraq was not finished, and Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi said the Kurds are just as entitled to freedom as Kuwait, and what is taking place in northern Iraq is genocide. Jack Katzenell reports:

Prime Minister Shamir expressed shock and outrage at the Iraqi massacre of the Kurds. The world is standing by, the prime minister said, and this proves once again that, in the Middle East, nobody can rely on outside forces for his survival.

Minister Without Portfolio Rehav'am Ze'evi says: Israel ought to demand that the United States come to the defense of the Kurds. Ze'evi, a retired major general, was involved in the aid which Israel supplied to Kurdish rebels in the 1960's in the form of arms supplies and, according to some reports, training. I asked him why Israel cannot help the Kurds today:

[Begin recording] [Ze'evi] In the past, we could make it because we had a neighboring country that was a bridge between us and the Kurds. Now, we don't have such a country, and the only two possibilities are Turkey and Iran, and both of them have good reasons not to help us, and likewise the Kurds.

[Katzenell] You mean that, in the past, Israel had access through Iran?

[Ze'evi] It's well known.

[Katzenell] Do you think then that today there is really nothing very substantial that Israel can do?

[Ze'evi] I believe that Israel can do some actions, but not the same way it was in the past, and not in a way that can be discussed on the radio. [end recording]

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: When Israel failed to stop the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the whole world was outraged. But the United States is not being blamed, because today's victims are not Palestinians, but Kurds, and nobody cares.

Arens Calls For Mideast Arms Supply Talks

TA0304175691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens conferred this evening with Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier today, Aspin toured Ari'el and an Air Force base. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

Congressman Les Aspin conferred with Defense Minister Moshe Arens for about 90 minutes. Minister Arens told him, among other things, that a conference of countries that supply arms to the Middle East is necessary to reach an agreement on reducing conventional arms sales to this region. The lesson learned from the Gulf war is that Arab countries ruled by dictators do not hesitate to resort to violence and force. That is why the strengthening of those countries by selling them arms creates a source of instability and poses a threat to peace in the Middle East. The arms sold to Iraq enabled it to resort to the aggression that led to the war in the Gulf, Arens remarked.

The defense minister also asserted that Syria continues to acquire arms and has recently received a shipment of missiles from North Korea. Syria has also been negotiating a large arms deal with the Soviet Union, he said. Arens emphasized to the U.S. congressman that it is to be hoped that the Arab countries learned from Iraq's defeat in the war that aggression does not pay.

The defense minister dwelled on the importance of developing Israeli-made weaponry to guarantee Israel's qualitative edge, and he noted that the Gulf war attests to the importance of the Arrow project, which will provide us with the capability to neutralize surface-to-surface missiles.

Arens on Israeli, West Bank Palestinians

TA0404065291 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 91 p 7

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Bradley Burston; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: During the war you went out on a limb and correctly forecast the end of Scud attacks on Israel. Can you hazard a similar assessment of when the current wave of knifings and border incidents will come to a close?

A: I think that it's going to take a long time. I'm sorry to have to say that, but I think that anyone who's realistic about the Middle East can't help but say that.

The Arab population of the Middle East, including the Palestinian Arabs who live in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, have among them a very high percentage—far too high a percentage, I think, to any civilized person's liking—of people who are fanatical, of people who are brutal, of people who have no regard for human life.

I refer you to the testimony of the Arab who killed three people in Yafo. Look at the things said by the Arab who killed four women at a bus stop in Jerusalem.

There is a very straight line that goes from them to Saddam Husayn. It's no accident that there was this tremendous enthusiasm for Saddam among so many of the Palestinian Arabs. I don't want to say all—I'm sure it wasn't all. But there were people calling for Saddam Husayn to use chemical weapons against Israel.

You have this terrible brutality among Palestinian Arabs. Daily, Palestinian Arabs kill Palestinian Arabs in the most brutal, despicable fashion. Killing is despicable and brutal by itself, but when you read about people being hacked to death by hatchets, and burned alive, and women being raped before they are killed, you wonder if you're really dealing with human beings.

Unfortunately, this is part of the way of life among Arab populations in the Middle East. I hasten to say again, not all. If you look at the Israeli Arab population, you'll find a tremendous difference. Although, presumably, even among them you'll find some that won't think twice about picking up a knife and killing a Jew.

I'm sure this is not going to remain a hallmark of the Arab way of life in the Middle East forever, but it would be an illusion to think that this is something that is likely to be changed within the next few months.

It is a slow process, but one that in large measure has taken place among the Israeli Arab population.

Q: In recent weeks the military and the police have seemed at odds over measures to stop the violence. The police have taken the harder line, advocating closure of the territories while the military has made attempts to preserve some semblance of economic life for residents of the territories. Is there now a bridge being built between these two positions?

A: There really are no basic differences of opinion. It is not easy to come up with a policy that, under these very difficult circumstances, will provide maximum safety for the population of Israel, which is everybody's aim.

But it is important to recognize in the face of some truly unrealistic suggestions that are being put forth, that Jews and Arabs live together. There's no way of changing that basic fact.

People who advocate separating Jews from Arabs think that this can be attained by Israel withdrawing from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. They simply forget that there are 150,000 Arabs living in Jerusalem, and that they are part of a much larger number, 800,000 Arabs living within the pre-1967 borders of Israel, and that there are over 100,000 Jews living in Judaea and Samaria.

Or, there are the people who talk about separating Jews from Arabs by deporting the Arabs—which is contrary to all the values that we hold dear. It's totally impractical.

Difficult as this may be to accept—especially on a day when someone gets killed, and we've had a few days of outrageous murders—it is a fact of Middle Eastern life. It is a fact of Israeli life.

The measures that we take have to be consistent with the fact that Jews and Arabs live together.

Q: You've been outspoken in your opposition to the transfer concept. In your experience, in talks with Palestinian public figures, does the presence of Rehav'am Ze'evi in the government diminish the credibility of the government as a whole in proposing alternatives to the present situation, in talking about elections or autonomy?

A: I suppose as far as some are concerned the answer is yes. There are some who generally harbor suspicions about the Israeli government, and maybe consider government pronouncements as being less than fully sincere.

And, I suppose that those who harbor these suspicions found these suspicions reinforced when Ze'evi joined the government.

There are others who understand the Israeli political system and the need for coalition politics, and realize that you can't really be too choosy in whom you take into the government when you have a very small margin in the Knesset.

Q: In your talks with Palestinian leaders of the territories, have you sensed a post-war shift away from a lockstep tie to the PLO leadership abroad, and toward growing independence of local decision-making?

A: You'll find very few Arabs from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza who will not repeat in an almost ritualistic manner that the PLO represents the Palestinian people.

Nevertheless, in discussions that you have, invariably you get the feeling that there is great fear behind these pronouncements. And it is certainly my conclusion that many who make these pronouncements make them because they are afraid of retribution if they were to say anything else.

My impression is that many among the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza are sick and tired of the intifada. They have come to the conclusion that it is only bringing great suffering.

It has brought terrible suffering to the population, and a great deterioration in their economic condition, which was not brilliant to begin with.

Many of them have come to the conclusion that this kind of violence is getting them nowhere, making matters worse, creating a gulf of antagonism and even hate between Jews and Arabs.

But they're afraid. The street gangs have taken over the towns and villages of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and they go around killing people and destroying property.

Respectable people—and I'm not talking about what are sometimes referred to as collaborators, but respectable people, professionals, doctors, lawyers, engineers—are simply afraid. Quite a few have left the country. Many Christian Arabs have left the country out of fear.

Unfortunately, there are not many people with means in the area, but many of those with means have sent their children out of the area.

That is part of the very difficult reality that we face and that we have to overcome. This is not exactly the right climate for free elections.

Q: Can candidates be protected from assassinations during an election?

A: I think that it's something that we have to do. The case that always sticks in my mind is the assassination of Zafir al-Masri, who wasn't elected, but was one of the most prominent Palestinian Arabs in Samaria.

I met him personally, and spoke to him numerous times in my previous tenure as defense minister. He was a man for whom I had a great deal of respect and admiration, although he was an outspoken, firm spokesman for what he considered to be the Palestinian cause.

He had no sooner taken on the job of being mayor of Nabulus than he was assassinated.

A time like this, when we're looking for solutions between Jews and Arabs, is a time that calls for courage. Unless we have people among the Palestinian population who are ready to come forward and take courageous positions, realizing the risk involved, it's going to be very difficult to move forward.

Q: Three prominent Gazans were given permission this week to travel to Egypt in an effort to encourage economic assistance for the Strip. Have you found there to be foreign interest in improving the economic lot of territories' Palestinians?

A: We're just beginning to hear some interest in that direction. This is a very good, very important sign, because those who know the problems of the area realize that the economic problems are at least as important as the political problems, and maybe even more so.

You just have to go down to Gaza and see how people live in the refugee camps. A third generation is living under what seems, at least to the Western eye, intolerable conditions.

Although it might be said that these conditions existed before the Six Day War, even when the Egyptians controlled Gaza, the Arab population of Gaza has had a chance to see how people live in Israel.

Arabs from Gaza who come to work in Israel have to get up very early in the morning, they have to go through a Via Dolorosa before they ever get to Israel, going through all kinds of checkpoints. In Israel they see how people live, and it's not the way they live in Gaza. And then in the evening, they're back to their hovels.

But improving these difficult economic conditions takes resources. You have to build decent housing, you have to create job opportunities, which means investments in the infrastructure.

Israel's peace initiative appeals to the affluent nations of the world to participate with Israel in rehabilitating the refugee camps.

In the past, we were unable to get any kind of positive response, and it had been the policy of most of the Arab world to keep the refugees in the refugee camps as an open sore, quite cynically, as a political weapon against Israel.

Since the end of the Gulf crisis, we do get some indications that there is a readiness to participate. We've gotten some indications from the European community, I've heard some feelers from Japan, and we've had some indications that maybe the Saudis and others of the oil-producing nations in the Arab world would be ready to participate.

If that happens, it would be a very important step forward.

Q: In the Seventies, military authorities expressed hope that fundamentalist movements in the territories would act as a counterbalance to largely secular radical Palestinian groups. Today, fundamentalist groups have themselves turned increasingly militant, often violent, and, in many areas, dominant. Do you see a present counterbalance to the growth of the fundamentalist organizations, a policy that Israel can undertake to reverse the trend?

A: I think that if you search for the answer to that question, which is a very difficult question to answer, you'll want to look at the Israeli Arab population. They are Palestinian Arabs just like the populations of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. They happen to be citizens of Israel, and have been for the past 43 years, but they have the same families, the same traditions, the same history.

The counterbalance element among the Israeli Arab population has been that element that has acquired education, that has come in close contact with Israeli society, and that has begun to adopt the norms and standards of our society, which are the norms and standards of Western society.

And when they do that, they naturally reject extremist positions, whether they are of the radical nature or of the Islamic fundamentalist nature.

That doesn't mean they are not good Muhammadans. I'm sure many of them are. But I'm sure you can be a good Muhammadan without wanting to go around killing people.

Q: The U.S. has been vocal in its criticism of expulsions and administrative detention. Nonetheless, in private conversations with administration officials, have you heard understanding for the use of these measures?

A: My guess is that there must be understanding among many in the U.S. I think probably that anybody in the U.S. that for a moment tries to visualize the U.S. facing similar problems, say, people being knifed in the streets of New York or Chicago, would quickly agree that the authorities in these areas would feel obligated to take those measures that they would consider to be effective in dealing with these kinds of outrages.

I've heard people criticizing us for destroying homes. If somebody wants to read the gruesome tale of the man from Gaza who murdered three people, including a 20-year-old woman in a Yafo workshop a few months ago, the story appeared in newspapers over the weekend.

The whole thing is quite instructive. You get the feeling that an animal is talking and not a human being. He (the killer) relates, among other things, that when he tried to take refuge with his brother in Ramallah, and he told his brother that he had killed three Jews, his brother said, "You're crazy. Now they're going to destroy our parents' house."

Nobody can tell me that it's not a deterrent. It wasn't a deterrent for this murderer, but it's obvious that there are many others who are potential murderers, who will not carry out that act because they are concerned that their house, or their parents' house, would be destroyed in retaliation.

Q: You've held a range of jobs in government. Just for the sake of comparison, would you like to try your hand at the position of prime minister?

A: No, I've never expressed any sort of ambition like that.

As a matter of fact, I never expressed an ambition to become defense minister. It was just something that happened to me. And it happened to me twice.

Gaza Group Seeks PLO Approval of Candidates

TA0104084991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Apr 91 p 2

[Pool report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian elements in Gaza yesterday distributed a list of notables from the city who will head the Gaza city council, if it is set up. This follows the report on the delegation that left for Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Arab sources reported that according to the list being carried by the members of the delegation—Fayiz Abu-Rahmah and the brothers 'Aql and Akram Matar from Gaza—Attorney Abu-Rahmah will head the city council and As'ad al-Saftawi, the author of the Palestinian peace plan, will serve as his deputy. Sources affiliated with the delegation have confirmed that its members are carrying a list of names they hope to get approved by PLO elements. Furthermore, it was reported that the delegation will go to Jeddah to obtain funds from the local Bank of Palestine to aid a company that is to carry out construction work in the Gaza Strip.

Following is the reaction of the bureau of the coordinator of government activities in the territories: The delegation has left to raise funds for an economic project that will deal only with housing construction and not to get approval for any list. Its members are aware of the ban on meetings with PLO men. [passage omitted]

Gaza Notable Urges Self-Criticism by PLO

TA0304162091 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 31 Mar 91 p 8

[Article by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Gaza Red Crescent Society director: "The Priorities of Palestinian Action in the Current Phase"]

[Text] Since Sunday, 24 March, a dialogue begun by Mr. Radi al-Jara'i has been going on in the pages of AL-FAJR on the need to reshape the Palestine National Council [PNC] by holding elections in the occupied Palestinian territories to choose delegates for a new PNC and achieve a balance of representatives from inside and outside the territories. That is supposed to aid the political moves following the Gulf war and affect the Palestinian march.

Before I express my view on this proposal, I would first like to affirm my strong support for the principle of dialogue and for the right of free expression. This is the path that leads to progress and advances, and prevents one from standing still and withdrawing into oneself. It is the right way of achieving what is best. I say this while being aware that mental terrorism is often used, under various pretexts, to suppress freedoms and commit more mistakes.

In principle, no one can claim that the present makeup of the Palestinian leadership in its different branches—the PNC, the Executive Committee, and the subcommittees—is the best possible makeup, or that no one should talk about organizational and democratic reforms and the reshaping of some departments. We cannot possibly agree with such claims, because we know that living and progressive societies are not those that are petrified into worshipping individuals and glorifying whatever exists, but those whose entire affairs are subject to the dictates

of logic emanating from free dialogue and the view of the majority, which takes reality into consideration, benefits from past experience, and places the nation's interest above everything else.

What is the reality around us and the priorities imposed by it?

The reality is occupation: Israel does not allow any activity in the occupied territories that contradicts its declared policy and goals. Shamir's proposal for holding elections in the occupied Palestinian territories to choose representatives with whom he will negotiate is fundamentally inconsistent with al-Jara'i's proposal. The first proposal aims at breaking up the unity of the Palestinian people, epitomized by the PLO, while the second proposal aims at consolidating that unity and pumping oxygen into its veins and functioning organs. This Israel will not allow.

Israel is feverishly engaged in establishing settlements, expanding existing ones, and settling in the occupied territories. This is fundamentally inconsistent with the Palestinian peace initiative and the Palestinians' right to a state and repatriation. Should this development continue, it will in a short time eliminate completely all chances of peace. The first duty now, therefore, is to convince or induce Israel to abandon that policy so that the chance to achieve peace would not be wasted but be bolstered by paving the way toward dialogue and negotiations for a firm and just peace, based on the principle of two states and all UN resolutions.

I believe that this is the most urgent matter, which should take priority over all other endeavors. This requires a great effort by the Palestinians—leadership and individuals everywhere—to explain the gravity of the situation should the chance for peace be squandered. This is what is also required from Israel's friends, the international community, and Israelis who are concerned about the interest and safety of this region's coming generations of Jews.

This, in my view, is the most immediate and urgent concern. It is a top priority and must be dealt with before time runs out and the doors to peace are closed.

That does not mean, however, that I oppose constructive efforts to rectify what needs to be rectified in our Palestinian march. In principle, I call on our leadership to conduct self-criticism and soul-searching in order to improve its performance and effectiveness. I also demand that I and all Palestinians, inside and outside the territories, give up personal ambitions and adopt a spirit of cooperation and the methods of relentless collective action to achieve a firm national unity that can withstand and overcome difficulties and crises.

Intifadah Incidents, Killings Updated

TA0304114691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpts] Four Palestinians suspected of being informers of Israeli agents were shot dead in the West Bank yesterday, bringing to six the number killed in the first two days of April. In March, four alleged informers were killed. [passage omitted]

A fourth man, 'Umar al-Qasi, 33, who sells vegetables from a stand in Ramallah, was abducted by masked men yesterday, and his mutilated body was found in the garbage dump on the southwestern outskirts of the town.

On Monday [1 April], Ibrahim 'Ali Najim, 33, was shot dead by masked men in Qalqilyah, local sources said. And in the Gaza Strip, Farah Abu-Jarda, 55, was shot in his home by masked men. Both were described by local Palestinians as "cooperators."

Over the past three days, slogans saying "Let us escalate our armed struggle using all means," and signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], have appeared on walls in Ramallah. The slogans have been seen on the walls of the education department and in the main market. The PFLP also took responsibility last week for the shooting death of Ya'ir Mendelsson, a resident of Dolev, who was shot in his car near Ramallah.

Leaflet No. 69 of the PLO-allied National Unified Leadership was distributed in two versions two days ago. It avoided calling for violent attacks yesterday, the 17th day of Ramadan which commemorated Mohammad's first battle against "unbelievers" in Arabia. However, an earlier Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet called for "a confrontation day."

In the wake of the Gulf war, there are indications of political in-fighting within the PLO and concern about challenges to its integrity. Many younger radicals are most resistant to change, and it is thought that by targeting "deviants" they are sending a warning to others that "the intifada is back to normal," according to knowledgeable defense sources. However, their acts may show a breakdown in command from the top.

The increasing use of firearms indicates the killings are being carried out in an organized way.

At least 18 people were lightly to moderately wounded in confrontations with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. Seven were injured in Rafah and 11 in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City, on "confrontation day" yesterday, Palestinians said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 3 April reports that the closure imposed on the Shu'fat refugee camp on 2 April following riots was lifted]

King Returns, Comments on Visit to West Europe

NC0304190891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this afternoon following a working visit to France and Germany which lasted several days. During the visit, his majesty held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, German President Richard Von Weizsaecker, and senior officials in the two countries. The talks dealt with the regional situation and the three countries' viewpoints on ideas to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. Bilateral relations were also discussed with the countries.

His Majesty King Husayn spoke to reporters upon his arrival.

[Begin King Husayn recording] [words indistinct] The visit was very good. Talks were frank and were held in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect at all levels, both in France, where I met with the prime minister and officials, and in Germany.

I believe that Europe has a significant role to play. There is considerable interest in tackling the region's issues with the required speed in a manner that would lead to a fundamental change in the course [words indistinct].

As I have just said, the Palestinian issue is getting the proper attention from all. This issue must be tackled quickly at the Palestinian level. [sentence as heard] The Arab Palestinian people should exercise their right to allow their leadership to express its views and contribute to the peace process. The Arab-Israeli conflict is also included in the ongoing international efforts to find a solution.

There is also concern for brother Iraq's affairs and eagerness to preserve Iraq's unity, soundness, and the future of its people. I believe that many share this eagerness with us. [end recording].

Comment Sees 'Special Importance'

NC0304190591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Toward an Effective German Role in the Region"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to Germany has special importance and clear political timing due to a number of factors and considerations related to the nature of Jordanian-German relations stemming from the given facts of the current stage the Middle East crisis is experiencing following the end of the war in the Arabian Gulf.

Jordanian-German relations have always been characterized by the spirit of friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect, which provided the best atmosphere to promote bilateral cooperation and expand fields of exchange in all domains on the basis of common concern and deep understanding, especially by the German side for Jordan's conditions and economic needs.

Moreover, Jordan remains very grateful for Germany's position during the Gulf crisis, its constant call for a peaceful solution to this crisis, and its insistence on the need to avoid the war option, which the United States and some West European countries allied to Germany in the European Community and NATO insisted on.

Hence, in accordance with this and in light of German public opinion against war, Germany was able to resist all U.S. pressures on it to send troops, even if symbolic, to the Gulf. Consequently, Germany is among the few Western countries that did not join the alliance with their military forces, shed a drop of Arab blood, or bomb an installation or bridge in Kuwait or Iraq.

Although Germany, under unprecedented U.S. pressures, contributed to financing a part of the U.S.-Atlantic war against Iraq and extended money and military equipment to Israel within efforts to reward the Hebrew state for not interfering in the war, all this does not prevent us from viewing Germany's position as the best among all the the West European states during the various stages of the crisis that swept this region of the world.

What increases our satisfaction over Germany's position at this stage, when there is much talk about the need to find a peaceful negotiated solution to the Middle East crisis, is that Bonn strongly calls for adopting the same principles of international legitimacy in dealing with the Palestine question and tirelessly calls for the implementation of UN and UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, not to mention its support for an international peace conference devoted to establishing peace in this region.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Germany and the scheduled talks with senior officials in that recently reunited country can contribute to developing a German position that is more understanding of this region's need for peace, justice, and progress. Moreover, the king's visit and talks can activate the German role in the Middle East to serve the issues of peace, stability, and progress, and to achieve the best common benefits for Germany and the Arab world, not only in the economic and trade fields but in all fields of fruitful and constructive cooperation between the peoples.

'Arabiyat Criticizes GCC Decision To Cut Aid

NC0404083391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Apr 91 p 2

[By Tariq al-Mumani]

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat has said that the decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states to cut aid to

Jordan and the PLO is harmful to the fraternal Arab relations and even to the survival of the entire Arab nation.

Responding to a question by AL-RA'Y, he said that the aid Jordan receives from its Arab brothers does not come from a vacuum, is not a charity from one side to another, but is important for the nation's survival and ability to confront the challenges facing Jordan as the country with the longest border with the Zionist enemy.

He pointed out that if we examine the volume of this aid, we will see that it is very little compared to what is being spent here and there in and against the nation's interests.

Commenting on GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bishara's statement on cutting aid, Dr. 'Arabiyat said that Jordan's position is clear, frank, and serves the nation's causes, including the Gulf crisis. He noted that Jordan has never focused only on its own interests but has always backed the causes of its nation and homeland.

He explained that Jordan talks about current and upcoming issues from a pan-Arab perspective at a time when the nation is facing large and serious challenges that threaten its existence and entity.

He said he hoped the Arab brothers would have a comprehensive view of current issues and would not be confined by the limits set by imperialism, which has previously exploited these limits and which is now trying to impair the fraternal Arab-Islamic relations.

He urged responsible people in our nation to take this comprehensive view of current issues. The nation—people, land, and resources—is expected to sacrifice and enhance the good and constructive factors in this nation.

He added that it is essential to discuss the details of cooperation between the sons of the one nation in order to build genuine and deep relations.

He affirmed that Jordan has remained steadfast in defense of the nation and its borders, including our brothers in the Arabian Gulf countries. He noted that our relations with them are not good.

He added that from the beginning and before oil appeared, the sons of this country played an important role in building the first infrastructure of the region, particularly in the Gulf region.

He said that any harm caused will have large-scale, serious effects that would not be confined to one side only. He said we are looking forward to building a bright future for the nation.

He called for cooperation through clean hearts and hands instead of distorting and destroying under weak pretexts.

He added that despite all the campaigns by the enemies, the Arab nation is aware of what is taking place and that the enemies fear those who stand by their nation's rights and aspirations. He said history will not have mercy on those who stand against the nation and that people know how to take their rights.

He expressed hope that all the brothers will take these matters into consideration and cooperate toward building their relations and future freely.

He then stressed the need to support the Palestinian people's struggle to achieve their aspirations of establishing an independent state on their national soil.

Compensation for Popular Army Volunteers Approved

NC0404073491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Cabinet has approved instructions to compensate martyrs and those injured from the popular army volunteers for 1991. The Cabinet approved compensation of 5,000 dinars when a volunteer serving in the popular army is martyred while carrying out his popular army duties. The compensation is to be distributed among his heirs in accordance with Islamic law.

The instructions also stipulated compensating volunteers serving in the popular army in case of permanent or physical disability suffered while carrying out his popular army duties. This is in accordance with the military medical committee decision which stipulates that 3,000 dinars is to be paid in case of total disability, 2,000 dinars for serious disability, and 1,000 dinars for partial disability.

France's 'False Concern' for Iraqi Rebels Noted

NC0304181991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Apr 91 pp 1,18

[Editorial: "The Racists' Humanity!"]

[Text] Each day a new form of Western racism and hatred for the Arabs and Muslims emerges. The French move to discuss the conditions of the Iraqi rebels and secessionists is a new picture and another form of this hatred and racism.

The history of the Arabs and Muslims is full of memories of French massacres against them. Some of us were deceived for a time by France's image of democracy, culture, and freedom. This deception did not last long, however, because French racism emerges at every opportunity, with all its claws, bayonets, and tusks, to slaughter us and shed our blood with a hatred known only to the Arabs and Muslims through their confrontations with the French colonialists. The Arabs cannot forget or forgive what is in Arab and Islamic memory about France's massacres in Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, and other Arab states, the last of which was in fraternal Iraq. Hence, the French move—which is certainly in response to a U.S. and Zionist request—emphasizes the extent of France's hatred, its inclination for evil and crime, and its desire to humiliate

the Arabs and Muslims. Siding with the Iraqi secessionists means standing against Iraq's unity. The Western imperialist and Zionist forces' support for the secessionists is a form of plotting against our entire Arab homeland. While the Iraqi people are facing an extremely racist and mean war of starvation by many Western countries, France above all, we find France neither concerned about this war, because it is a main party to it, nor shaken by the death of Iraqis as a result of hunger and illness. Meanwhile, France claims false concern over the lives of the secessionists. France and the rest of the racist enemies have imagined that they can destroy Iraq and strike its unity, and that through this "accomplishment" they can penetrate the homeland and nation.

France, which banned the publishing of Arab newspapers and the broadcasting of Islamic programs, and which imposed total control over the Arab and Islamic movement, can deceive no one by claiming concern for the Iraqi secessionists stemming from a cultural and humanitarian basis. This is France of the black history of massacres against the Arab and Muslim peoples. It is France which killed more than a million Algerians, participated in the three-country attack on Egypt, and sent its planes to slaughter Iraqi children and women and destroy Iraq's mosques, schools, and scientific accomplishments. If France bears this whole grudge against the Iraqi people, then it certainly excludes no one except the rebels and secessionists, its agents, as well as agents of the United States, the Zionist enemy, and the rest of the wretched alliance whose crimes our nation will neither forgive nor spare any means to settle scores.

We must emphasize that anyone who has a racist mentality and practices racism cannot be humanitarian. Killing with a double-edged knife is the same as killing with a single-edged knife. We are not surprised at France's position toward the Iraqi secessionists. It has always stood with secessionists in Iraq and all over the world as long as sacrificing principles was a condition for protecting interests, which is always the case with murderers.

Libyan Trade Official Welcomes Stronger Ties

JN0304121591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Ziyad al-Shillah]

[Text] Amman—The head of a Libyan economic and trade team now on a visit to Jordan Tuesday welcomed further strengthening of ties between the two countries, and said that Libyan markets were open to Jordanian products of all types.

"The Libyan markets can buy all Arab industrial commodities in general and Jordanian products in particular as Libya gives preference to Arab products over foreign goods," Salih al-Shaykhi said at a meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

"Libya offers the Jordanian private sector the chance to market its products in the country, either under official protocols or through private means, provided that the quality is high and the prices are reasonable for the Libyan consumer," said Mr. al-Shaykhi in his statement.

He said that Libya believed in economic integration with the Arab countries and offered facilities to reach that end.

Mr. al-Shaykhi and his accompanying team, who had talks with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran, Monday [1 April] discussed with the Amman Chamber of Commerce means of promoting bilateral trade.

Haydar Murad, the chamber's vice-president, welcomed the Libyan visitors and urged them to acquaint themselves with Jordanian products that can be marketed in Libya.

Mr. Murad said that trade with Libya boosted in the early 1980s when the Libyan markets started buying Jordanian medicine, agricultural seeds, confectionaries, wood and metal products. Libya has been selling Jordan fertilisers in the 1980s, he said.

But on the whole, the volume of trade exchanges did not top the JD [Jordanian dinar] 5 million mark on an annual basis and for this reason efforts are being made to boost trade. This, he said, can be done through organising joint trade fairs, exchanges of visits by trade delegations, and the signing of new agreements to organise the process of trade between Tripoli and Amman.

Several chamber members addressed the meeting, pledging to do all they can to promote bilateral trade.

Cabinet Discusses Resolution 425, Militia Issue

NC0304204391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Today, southern Lebanon returned to the limelight, politically and diplomatically, by the positions spelled out by the Cabinet, by moves made by the U.S. ambassador, and by the host of local or Palestinian stands taken. The topic that sparked all this action is Resolution 425 on which various parties have adopted conflicting positions. The key parties with conflicting positions on this resolution are Israel, the Palestinians, the south Lebanese resistance, and the South Lebanese Army. Each of these parties interprets this resolution as it suits it. Israel is demanding a strong central Lebanese government capable of taking over security tasks in southern Lebanon using its own forces, provided that attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon are prevented. When that happens, Israel will be willing to discuss implementation of the resolution.

The south Lebanese resistance links its very existence to the Israeli presence in the border strip, the very existence of Israel itself. It believes that it has the right to carry out acts of armed resistance as long as Israel is an occupier force. The Palestinians affirm that their issue is a Middle East issue linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict rather than a domestic Lebanese problem. Consequently, the Palestinian issue will not be resolved in Lebanon.

The official Lebanese stance is that there can be no exceptions to the decision on militia disbandment. This means that the militia disbandment includes all illegal weapons, local or foreign. Minister Walid Junblatt reaffirmed today that he would hand over his weapons to Syria, not to the state. Therefore, the positions appear to conflict and ambiguity shrouds the entire issue. In only 27 days, the deadline for Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias to hand over weapons will expire. The eight-member ministerial committee will discuss this issue in its meeting tomorrow.

The Cabinet stressed today the need to implement Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon. It highlighted the need to benefit from the suitable international, regional, and domestic climate. The Cabinet believes that legal diplomatic means must be used to implement the resolution. If the resolution cannot be implemented through diplomatic means, President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirmed that all of Lebanon will then turn into a resistance force to liberate southern Lebanon. President al-Hirawi added: Nobody has a monopoly on resistance. It is a national duty to be performed by all Lebanese. Consequently, the national soil must be liberated using all available means, as the provisions of the al-Ta'if accord stipulate. We have to begin by using the international legality and the UN Security Council resolutions to achieve this objective.

Minister Albert Mansur, who read the Cabinet's decisions to the press, answered reporters' questions, and affirmed that the only weapons whose existence is accepted on Lebanese territory are those belonging to the legitimate Lebanese authorities. Minister Mansur added: The Palestinians are the guests of the Lebanese people. What applies to the Lebanese applies to them as well. Mansur said that the restoration of the state's authority on the ground and throughout Lebanese territory will vastly facilitate the implementation of Resolution 425. I believe that this objective will be achieved very quickly. Mansur went on to say that border militias are linked to Israel, to the liberation of the lands, and to the implementation of Resolution 425.

PSP Pledges Commitment to Militia Dissolution

NC0304145991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sharif Fayyad, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has said that the PSP is dealing positively with the issue of dissolving the militias. Fayyad said that the state's decision to disband the militias is in accord with the agreement approved in al-Ta'if. He said disbanding the militias was a necessary step. He added that this step will promote peace in the country because of its timing and the national consensus.

In an interview with our radio, Fayyad said that the PSP participated in the decision to disband the militias and will, therefore, abide by it. He expressed the hope that everyone will abide by the decision.

Fayyad called on the state to fulfill its obligations toward the youth enrolled in the militias. He pointed out that the Cabinet has decided to open the door to help the youth who have served in various militias. Fayyad said some extraordinary decisions must be made to ensure the proper implementation of measures leading to a solution of the militias issue.

Regarding the non-Lebanese militias, including the Palestinians, Fayyad said: The PSP believes that this is a crucial and sensitive issue and requires a thorough and thoughtful examination away from narrow considerations and from the media. This topic, he noted, should not be material for blackmail or one-upmanship. It serves nobody's interest to recall the incidents in Sabra and Shatila, nor does it serve the Lebanese or the Palestinians to recall the Palestinian practices before 1982 [Israeli invasion].

Fayyad added: The issue of Palestinian resistance and arms is an important one that should be resolved on a clear and firm basis that upholds the rights of the Palestinian people, the security of the Palestinians, and the sovereignty of the Lebanese.

Prime Minister on Militias, Palestinian Dialogue

NC0204201591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has stressed that the absence of justice is one of the reasons the Lebanese people have been suffering for the past 16 years. He said an opportunity exists today to address this flaw, particularly since the entire regime is holding together and is in agreement on some fundamental principles: independence; the unity of the territories, people, and institutions;

the restoration of sovereignty; and the need to secure justice and freedoms. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Karami said that the time limit specified by the Cabinet for disbanding the militias will be followed according to schedule and in a fair manner for all the militias, whether they are Lebanese or non-Lebanese. He said no power whatsoever can stop this from happening because the decision is the product of the al-Ta'if Accord, which is an international and regional decision that must be implemented to the letter. He said there is no room for any change in the accord.

He said that when we deployed the Army to the South, the brother Palestinians had the same attitude as they do today. However, because we conducted a dialogue with them we managed to reach an understanding and the army was dispatched to the south. I believe that through dialogue we will reach an agreement with them today as well, he added.

Interior Minister on Recruitment of Militiamen

NC0304131991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib has said that law will be enforced on all the Lebanese territories outside the occupied border strip. He noted that the occupied strip has a different regional and international status.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Maj. Gen. al-Khatib disclosed that there are plans to increase the internal security forces from the current number of 8,000 servicemen to 16,000. The additional numbers, he said, will be recruited by voluntary enrollment and will include a few militiamen. He added that the number recruited from the militias may vary, but will not be on partisan basis as some may wish.

As for the Palestinian arms, al-Khatib said: The Palestinian issue is not to be treated lightly, for it requires special care. I do not think that the Palestinians will invent a reason or a pretext to harm Lebanon. Lebanon has given them much and all we want now is that the Palestinians be treated in Lebanon as they are treated in any other Arab country.

Al-Khatib said that a strong Lebanon will serve the Palestinians better, adding that a dismembered Lebanon is neither in the interest of the Palestinians nor the Lebanese.

Sa'adah on Al-Ta'if Accord, Talks With Khaddam

NC0104180191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Phalangist Party Leader and Minister Dr. George Sa'adah today called for resorting to the Chamber of Deputies Drafting Committee that formulated the text of the al-Ta'if accord in order for it to give a clear explanation of the articles on which there is disagreement. This is particularly important because the tripartite Arab committee is not available and the Arab summit to which the committee would have resorted to tackle any obstacles is unlikely to convene. [passage omitted]

At an expanded Phalangist Party meeting, Sa'adah said that since the Council of Ministers with its overbearing approach has failed to ensure reconciliation over the issues on which there is disagreement, we will reconsider several issues and positions. He pointed out that this matter will be discussed in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Sa'dah said: During our meeting—Minister Roger Dib and myself—with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, Khaddam informed us that Syria will fulfill its withdrawal within the specific deadlines outlined in the agreements. He said that Khaddam pointed out that Syria will let the Lebanese Government extend its authority throughout Lebanon by its own force.

Regarding the topics discussed at the Cabinet meeting, Sa'adah said: We made certain remarks based on the Phalangist Party's ad hoc committee report, including the plan to dissolve the militias. He said: There has been an unequivocal and candid commitment to dissolving the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. There is a commitment that the youths in the Lebanese Forces and in other parties must not be discarded. We must find ways of incorporating them into a Lebanese solution.

Bomb Explodes Near Minister Al-Bizri's House

NC0304173691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Security sources have told Voice of Lebanon that a device exploded before 1830 today at the northern entrance to Sidon, near the house of Minister Nazih al-Bizri. The device was planted near a wall. Preliminary reports said that there are casualties, but that has not yet been confirmed by competent authorities.

Fadlallah Cited on Gulf Security, Hostages

PM0304140791 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Mar 91 pp 21-22

[Interview with Shiite scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Raja' Kammuni in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kammuni] How do you view the Gulf war, its repercussions in the region, and the future of the region as a whole?

[Fadlallah] If we study the Gulf war, what led to it, and its background regardless of the small or big players in it, we would see that it was launched to pave the way for the new international order in the region and the world. That is because the Middle East, in its vast areas and elements of political, economic, and security problems, could affect the political, economic, and security conditions anywhere in the world.

The Middle East has the oil wells which are the lifeline of the world economy, affecting other countries to varying

degrees. It is the base of world Zionism, which has extended its tentacles to more than one political location in the world to complete the network that would enable it to encircle the region and its Arab and Islamic realities.

The Middle East is the base of the Islamic fundamentalist movement, which has expanded to reach various regional and world locations at interlinked levels of security, politics, and culture. The Middle East is a strategic region. [passage omitted]

Only the Middle East could unsettle the world's political centers and affect them adversely. No region other than the Middle East could enable the United States to control the world economy and political conditions and, therefore, control the world's security game.

[Kammuni] Is the Islamic Republic trying to revive its political and military role in the Gulf through its current endeavors in the nonaligned states group?

[Fadlallah] We know that from the very beginning, since the Iraq-Iran war, the Republic has, in its comments on the Western fleets which had come to protect Kuwait and other states, emphasized that Gulf security is the responsibility of the Gulf states, especially Iran and some other states.

When the war broke out, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati toured the Gulf states, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, and he declared that Iran was willing to defend its Gulf neighbors with all possible means against Iraqi and other threats. The Islamic Republic is still saying that the region's security can only be guaranteed by the states of the region. That is Iran's consistent policy. Iran has worked for reasonable relations with the Gulf states and has been endeavoring to strengthen these relations. Saudi-Iranian relations are expected to be restored with the removal of the obstacles which had prevented that.

I therefore believe that Iran will act politically and effectively to assume the major role in the Gulf region's security. I imagine that the Iranian role will be ahead of the Arab role despite the fact that Arab officials have been stressing the importance of the Arab role in maintaining Gulf security. [passage omitted]

[Kammuni] Back to Lebanese affairs. Some have interpreted the Army's deployment in the South as a move that took Lebanon out of the circle of confrontation. Why was that step taken so quickly, having previously been almost impossible to take?

[Fadlallah] I believe that step did not bring Lebanon closer to a solution and did not pave the way for Resolution 425. It was a step in harmony with the Lebanese atmosphere in the current phase. The aim was to cool the Lebanese situation so that there would be no hotbed of tension other than the Gulf. The United States did not want the world to be preoccupied with its own problems at the expense of U.S. international preoccupations. The aim of the Greater Beirut plan was to cool the Lebanese situation and prevent a new Lebanese war. That is why the problems which emerged when the Greater Beirut plan was implemented did not lead the Lebanese people to a new war. Had they occurred at some other stage, they would have caused more than one war. [passage omitted]

The Army's deployment in the South was not meant to pave the way for the implementation of Resolution 425, nor was it meant to create a certain Lebanese political situation. It was part of the international and Arab plan to control Palestinian activity and keep it within limits that would not interrupt the plans drawn up for the region. The strength of the Army force deployed in the South stems not from the arms in its possession but from the political and popular emphasis that enabled it to achieve these results. In the future, the Arab and international positions on the Palestinian question in the South will have to be watched. Will Sidon become another Tripoli? Will a Palestinian-Lebanese problem be created? What will be the new horizons after the Gulf conflict? The South is still a part of the Middle East problem, and nobody has tried to separate the two. The South is still Israel's pressure card in relation to the West Bank and use of Arab water. Any talk of implementation of Resolution 425 before a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question would be politically inaccurate.

[Kammuni] Could we say that the Amal-Hizballah agreement is final, and do you expect a Shiite front plan to emerge?

[Fadlallah] In Arab, regional, and international politics nothing is absolute, but we imagine that the external factors that were behind the Amal-Hizballah war are no longer present at this stage—and they would be very difficult to revive because they are of no consequence now. The circumstances in which the agreement was reached were solid. Regarding the talk of a Shiite front, I do not believe that is possible in the current political situation and circumstances, but we expect this agreement to initiate moves toward more agreement on major political issues of mutual interest in the face of international arrogance or, at the level of regional politics, in the face of Israel, or, internally, in the face of local hegemony. I believe that the normalization process between these two organizations might lead to understanding on these issues. [passage omitted]

[Kammuni] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has stated that the Army in the South now has strict orders to prevent the transport of arms and the launching of missiles against the Israeli enemy. In your view, is that not against resistance operations?

[Fadlallah] Naturally, the Lebanese official policy was and still is opposed to any acts of violence against Israel. The real official position which forms the basis of the Lebanese policy is, therefore, against resistance of any kind. If we examine the statements made, not for local consumption, we will see a senior official saying that whoever wanted to resist should do so outisde Lebanon.

Even when some officials speak, for local consumption, about support for the resistance, the Lebanese policy is against that in practice. The resistance, which seeks liberation from occupation, awaits nobody's approval, and it does not wait for a republican decree.

[Kammuni] The media has frequently referred to you as the spiritual and political guide of a certain group which has detained foreign nationals in Lebanon. How do you explain that?

[Fadlallah] Western intelligence circles are the source of that title because they wanted some front on which to exert pressure. I am not part of any political organization, not even at the so-called political guidance level, but, on the other hand, I embrace the entire political situation in Lebanon, the Arab world, and the world at large, and I support and I consult to the best of my ability. Regarding the matter of kidnapping, I have emphasized that I do not get involved in such actions because they are inhumane, and that applies to the kidnapping of journalists and university professors, and it includes the kidnapping of Christians by Muslims or vice versa. I do not believe a person should be kidnapped because his government is exerting some kind of pressure or kidnapped for barter purposes. I believe human beings are more valuable than that, but at the same time I understand the security and political circumstances of the kidnappers. I have said that if the kidnappers are guilty it is because they used the innocent to get at the guilty party, but then the whole world is doing that.

We remember the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, whereby the people were punished because their government had done something bad. The same goes for the American bombardment of civilian areas in Iraq as punishment for the Iraqi Government's policies.

So, it is not a private matter but rather a matter connected to issues on the basis of which the kidnappers act. I imagine that the security violence and political violence the Lebanese have experienced in connection with the Israeli reality which destroys everything, plus the opinion the Lebanese have formed of Europe and the United States, have played a major political and military part. Politically, that was what created the kidnapping atmosphere, for these people found nothing with which to confront Israel other than this primitive way. We reject the matter as such, but we understand the conditions the kidnappers have suffered. As I have said, I refuse to take even one-millionth part of the responsibility for that.

[Kammuni] You played an effective part in the release of some of the detainees. How do you explain that initiative on your part?

[Fadlallah] I interceded for the release of all the detainees because I felt that I had to make an effort in that respect. I succeeded in some cases because the political atmosphere was ripe, but in other cases it was an international matter beyond Lebanon and we did not have the means to intervene effectively. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns After Meeting Saudi King

NC0204121991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has returned to Damascus following a brief visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he handed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with the current Arab situation.

Discussions focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to implement UN resolutions and apply international legitimacy so as to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and on securing the national rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

Discussions also touched on coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries that are signatories of the Damascus Declaration.

Commentary Criticizes Israel's Concept of Peace

NC0304210091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Every time Israel feels that there is a serious attempt by the international community to explore the prospects of a just and comprehensive solution in the region and create appropriate circumstances to implement UN resolutions and establish peace, the pillars of the Zionist government in Tel Aviv rush to make statements and fabricate false rules that always contradict the rules of justice and logic, the concepts of peace, and the true tendency of the international will to explore and achieve peace. At any one time you find among the Israelis one who says that the attainment of peace is an issue that concerns only the Arabs and Israel; that the participation of international parties in the peace process is futile; that this or that Arab party is qualified to hold a dialogue or negotiate with Tel Aviv; and that the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and Arabs in general are what Israel decides they should be, not what the UN resolutions specify, what the world acknowledges, and what Arabs have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of martyrs for over more than 40 years.

To put it briefly, all this means that the peace that Israel accepts is the Israeli peace alone, none other. This is true whether or not the Arabs agree or the world accepts it. This will hold true as long the instinct of aggression, expansionism, and hegemony continues to live in the hearts of Israel's rulers.

Now that the international community has intensified its efforts—after the battles of the Gulf war stopped—to put a decisive end to the Arab-Zionist conflict on the basis of right and justice and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, perhaps the entire world can see the Zionist's government's current intransigent positions, ambiguous statements, and repressive measures in the West Bank and Gaza are merely an expression of Israel's anxiety as its true position as an enemy of peace, an opponent of international legitimacy, and a usurper who obeys only the law of aggression and usurpation.

What the Arabs seek in any prospective peace is that which is called for by the law of justice and that which is in agreement with the letter and spirit of the UN resolutions. What Israel seeks in any proposed solution is that which is called for by the law of the jungle and which contravenes the noblest principles of international legitimacy and the most valuable goals for which this legitimacy was established.

The Arabs today must be conscious of this fact and aware of all the traps Israel is trying to set and all the ploys on which it is wagering to create divided Arab stands instead of a united one and divided international stands instead of a united one. To the extent that we are aware of these ploys and their vicious objectives, we will preserve our stand and win the world over to our side and guarantee for ourselves and our future generations full rights to the land, sovereignty, and destiny.

AL-THAWRAH on Saddam's 'Black Record'

NC0404085291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "The Black Record of Saddam Husayn," AL-THAWRAH says: The main aim of the Iraqi regime is to destroy the Iraqi Army, weaken its fighting capability, squander the Iraqi people's resources, and turn Iraq into a poor country weighed down with debts. Saddam Husayn's abandonment of Arab values prompted him to adopt such behavior after he tried to break up the Arab ranks.

The newspaper adds: The black record of Saddam's crimes has affected the Iraqi people and Army and has harmed the Arab nation's causes and interests.

It continues: The Iraqi people have risen up to put an end to the black record of the ruling regime once and for all. The Iraqi people will not rest until they remove this nightmare and break their shackles.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Views Kimmitt Remarks on Khowst

LD0304193191 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the following to BAKHTAR:

U.S. Under Secretary of State Robert Kimmitt said recently that after the events in Khowst the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is being faced with defeat and hence (?it is expected to be toppled).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan expresses surprise and regret at this statement made by a responsible official of the U.S. Administration. The events in Khowst, caused as a result of Pakistan's open use of weaponry and physical aggression on the territory of Afghanistan, not only fails to show the strength of the Afghan opposition extremists but indicates that the Pakistani Government draws conclusions from the years of independent defense by the Republic of Afghanistan and has lost all hope for military success by the Afghan opposition; and by violating openly the Geneva accords and accepted international norms and [words indistinct] dispatches troops to the terrritory of Afghanistan.

In drawing conclusions from events in Khowst, Mr. Kimmitt [words indistinct] overlooks the fact that direct participation of the infantry and armored forces of Pakistan in the Khowst aggression will have serious consequences.

Mr. Kimmitt's statement clearly indicates that certain circles in the United States are still trying to impose a military solution and to expand the war and bloodshed in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that [word indistinct] instead of waging warmongering propaganda contrary to the current transformation of international relations, it would be better if the U.S. authorities, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, were to assist the people of Afghanistan in achieving a political solution for the country's problems and [words indistinct] with realism and a broadminded attitude.

Decries Pakistan's 'Crimes'

LD0304184291 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Apr 91

["Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan"—read by announcer]

[Text] The Government of Pakistan, with unexpected shamelessness, has claimed that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are bombarding the city of Khowst with Scud missiles and carrying out air raids. This government, in showing off a feature—the nurse is kinder than the mother [Afghan proverb]—expresses regret because 10 men are alleged to have been killed as a result of the aggression which took place in Khowst with the direct participation of Pakistani military and militia. Hundreds of our compatriots were killed, the direct responsibility for this dreadful crime rests with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan must know that by dispatching men armed with modern weapons to the territory of Afghanistan and using the most modern heavy armored weapons, air defense weapons, the new guidance systems, it has practically created a new situation in Khowst.

The recent claim by the Government of Pakistan itself shows interference by this country in the internal affairs of a neighboring country. As is clear to all, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan tried, both via presentation of various proposals for the political solution of the country's problems and courageous and comprehensive initiatives for normalization of relations with Pakistan, as well as repeated appeals to the UN and other relevant international organizations, to prevent the intensification of the situation and to make Pakistan give up the continuation and expansion of its interventionist policy and aggression against the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan once again gives a warning regarding [word indistinct] the country's tension at regional level [as heard] that Pakistan's [word indistinct] support for the political situation and actual broadening of war dimensions, cannot be in the interest of any Afghan belligerent parties.

The Government of Pakistan must recall that three years ago this government signed a treaty in Geneva with the Republic of Afghanistan, guaranteed by three world powers, on cessation of intervention and inteference in each other's affairs. Despite the fact that the Republic of Afghanistan has fulfilled all its commitments, the Government of Pakistan has not taken any steps to (?implement) this credible treaty; and since that time the Government of Pakistan has violated the provisions of the Geneva accords over 13,000 times. The Government of Afghanistan has in 1,848 notes informed the UN secretary general about these violations. Hence, the Pakistani Government's appeal to this organization cannot be regarded as anything but shameless arrogance. In no way can this government deny its open and blatant aggression on the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan and perpetration of foul and dreadful crimes.

Najibullah Appeals to Regional Leaders on Khowst

Message to Iranian President

LD0304204691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent the following message to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, greetings! Dear brother, I send you this message as the city of Khowst comes under blatant and direct aggression by the Pakistani military in the month of Ramadan while our country's Muslim people fast and worship God. As you know, the oppressed and Muslim nation of Afghanistan has suffered heavy losses of life and material as a result of the devastating and futile 12-year war.

In continuation of the blatant interference and aggression by Pakistan; despite efforts, endeavors, and numerous proposals by the Republic of Afghanistan for a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem; this war still continues and acquires intensification and wider dimensions. Not only has Pakistan, as a signatory to the Geneva agreements, paid no attention to its undertakings, but against all internationally accepted norms and the UN Charter it has continued its shameful interference to the extent of direct and open aggression on the sanctuary of the Republic of Afghanistan. During recent days, regular units of Pakistan's Armed Forces, including militia and commando units, armed with heavy weaponry, artillery, rockets, and tanks, and under the direct command of Pakistan's generals with the collaboration of their renowned spy Gulbuddin, launched a complete military aggression on Khowst. This aggression takes place at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan has, on the basis of the national reconciliation policy, presented numerous proposals for the normalization of relations with Pakistan and has expressed a desire for friendship and cooperation with that country. Despite all honest efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistani militarists are set to subject us once again to open military aggression and confront our country with the danger of disintegration and partition. A vivid example of this aggressive policy is the offensive against Khowst, the incidents and occurences of which you, dear brother, know.

The Republic of Afghanistan has in its possession irrefutable evidence that the aggression against Khowst was launched under the direct command of Pakistani generals and officers with the potential and active participation of the Army of that country. This aggression will have dangerous consequences for the stability and security of the region and world peace. While the Republic of Afghanistan, after acquiring precise and authentic information about change in the positions of Pakistan's regular Army forces and their stationing on the Khowst border, formally put the issue to the UN secretary general and asked that the United Nations should organise its immediate intervention to stop Pakistan's armed aggression. Units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, in coordination with tribal units and local people, bravely and stoically defended their positions and repulsed and neutralized Pakistani miltary and mercenary forces. It was for this reason that Pakistan's militarists mounted this direct and open aggression against Khowst to compensate for the consecutive and heavy defeats of extremist forces which they support.

Although the Republic of Afghanistan has utilized all its capabilities to defend the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country and the honour of the free people of Afghanistan, it falls to you, dear brother, to—taking advantage of your morale influence—help us end the open aggression of Pakistan's militarists, which has surely caused sadness and regret to the brother people and State of Iran. The state and the people of the Republic of Afghanistan believe the friendly and brotherly country of the Islamic Republic of Iran, having common religious, cultural, and linguistic links, can play an important role as an Islamic and neighboring country in putting an end to the direct interference and aggression of Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan, especially Khowst. Therefore, I ask you, dear brother, to prevent through your good offices with any possible means this aggression by Pakistan, which can lead to a dangerous regional conflict, and to help the wretched people of Afghanistan to restore peace and prevent further bloodshed.

Taking this opportunity I wish you health, with the prosperity and tranquillity of the brother people of Iran. Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan.

Message to Turkey's Ozal

LD0304231791 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Message from President Najibullah to Turkish President Turgut Ozal—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate.

Dear brother:

In expressing my best wishes to His Excellency, I would like, following my previous letters on the political and military situation of Afghanistan, to inform you this time about the direct and open aggression by the Armed Forces of Pakistan against the Khowst border city.

As you are aware, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proclaimed the policy of national reconciliation to end the 12-year-old destructive war, prevent further bloodshed and solve the Afghanistan issue by peaceful means on the basis of the objective realities of Afghan society and in consideration of the national and international aspects of the Afghanistan issue. In following this policy, the Geneva accords were signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has acted earnestly and courageously to realize this policy. Regrettably, the Islamic Government of Pakistan, contrary to its commitments, further expanded the dimension of direct interference and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Continuing its recent intervention, regular units of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, including militia and commando units, equipped with heavy long-range artillery, rockets, and tanks, and under direct command of Pakistani generals with the participation of Gulbuddin and other extremist mercenaries attached to them, embarked on shameless military aggression against Khowst. This aggression took place at a time when, on one hand, positive transformations took place in the international realm for detente and peaceful solution of regional issues, and on the other hand, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in following the policy of national reconciliation, presented various proposals to Pakistan to secure better relations and goodneighborliness; and therefore extended the hand of friendship and cooperation to this country. Despite all earnest endeavors by the Republic of Afghanistan, the militarists of Pakistan, contrary to all accepted international norms, standards, and regulations, the UN Charter, the resolution passed by the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, and the principle of goodneighborliness, once again attempted to threaten the land of the Afghans with dismemberment and elimination by open and blatant military aggression on the city of Khowst.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan possesses undeniable evidence that aggression against Khowst has taken place under the direct command of Pakistani generals and officers with the actual and practical participation of this country's Army. Undoubtedly, this will bring about dangerous consequences for the stability and security of the region, as well as international peace. After obtaining information on changes in the strategic position of Pakistani military forces and their stationing in the vicinity of the Khowst border, the Government of Afghanistan informed the UN secretary general officially about the subject and asked the UN to prevent the continuation of Pakistani aggression by acting immediately. Simultaneously, the armed units and companies of the Republic of Afghanistan, together with the tribal units and local inhabitants, courageously defended their positions against the aggressors and repulsed and foiled the invasion by the mercenary forces and Pakistani militarists in various directions. Subsequently, the militarists of Pakistan embarked on this direct and open aggression to remedy the shameful defeats of the extremist forces under its protection.

In using all possibilities for the defense of the country's freedom, political independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and the pride and honor of the freeborn and Muslim people of Afghanistan, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan appeals to you, dear brother, as president of one of the trusted countries of the region, with whom the people of Afghanistan have profound historic links, to take action in utilizing your credibility and influence in the region to end the pains and extended sorrows of the persecuted people of Afghanistan, which undoubtedly is a cause of sorrow for the people and fraternal Government of Turkey, and to prevent, by any possible means, these blatant aggressions by Pakistan that may bring about a dangerous confrontation in the region.

I am fully confident that the grateful people of Afghanistan will never forget your noble endeavors to end aggression, bring about cessation of further bloodshed, and aid restoration of peace and serenity in the war-torn country of Afghanistan. I take this opportunity to ask Almighty God to bestow on you, dear brother, good health and safety, together with the prosperity and tranquillity of the friendly people of Turkey. Verily, success comes from God. [preceding sentence in Arabic]

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

AFP Interviews Najibullah on Fall of Khowst

BK0404004091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1745 GMT 3 Apr 91

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Kabul, April 3 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah said Wednesday he was confident that his government forces could retake Khowst from mujahidin rebel fighters.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the pro-Soviet leader also accused Pakistan and the United Nations of trying to divide Afghanistan after the fall of the strategic garrison city.

Speaking at the presidential palace, Mr. Najibullah acknowledged that Khowst fell Monday [1 April] into the hands of the mujahidin fighting to overthrow his government. He had previously said on Afghan television only that his government had "lost contact" with the city.

Rebel sources in Peshawar, Pakistan, have said the city was captured Sunday [31 March] after two-and-a-half weeks of intense fighting.

Mr. Najibullah alleged that the rebel victory was assisted by a "large-scale attack" by Pakistani forces.

Islamabad, which hosts three million Afghan refugees and allows seven Afghan rebel groups to base themselves in Peshawar, has always denied any direct involvement Afghanistan's 12-year civil war.

The president indicated that all civilians in Khowst had fled the city and that the fighting had left many people dead and wounded. He gave no casualty figures.

"During this war we have lost Konduz, Jalalabad and even some major roads," Mr. Najibullah said. "Not only did we retake them, but we also succeeded in improving security afterwards," he said. "In a year's time, you will see that Khowst will have a new face."

Pakistan, he alleged, has used military means toward a political goal of setting up an Afghan resistance government in the province of Khowst.

"The goal has been to have a place for a new government... The Pakistanis have chosen this city 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the border because they can easily withdraw afterwards," he said.

Mr. Najibullah also accused the United Nations of supporting the same idea.

On Tuesday [2 April], a senior aide to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Benon Sevan, proposed making Khowst Province a "zone of peace" in exchange for a halt to bombardments of the region by Kabul government forces.

"This proposal is not acceptable because we no longer have control (over Khowst Province)," said Mr. Najibullah, speaking through an interpreter.

Those who want it, he said, associate the U.N. official's offer with Pakistani intentions of forming a second government inside Afghanistan.

"To create two governments in a united Afghanistan is to divide Afghanistan," he said. "We do not want a division of Afghanistan."

He recalled that he personally proposed creation of a zone of peace in Afghanistan, where armed afghans and rebels would cease their hostilities and take part in reconstruction. "But I proposed this when Khowst was under our control. So why did they not accept the offer?" he said.

He ridiculed a mujahidin offer of a cease-fire in Khowst, saying it had been made after the start of a rebel offensive that left a great many casualties. He also mocked a Pakistani appeal to the United Nations on Tuesday to block the Kabul government forces from firing rockets and scud missiles at Khowst. One scud attack earlier this week left 10 dead.

"There are no more civilians in the city. There are only munitions," Mr. Najibullah said.

"Why do they make such a noise about two or three scuds when, for days and days, they have been firing rockets and bombs?" he asked, adding that all Afghans would remember that Tuesday was declared a day of national mourning by the government.

The president also accused the United Nations of being partial.

"When Kuwait was attacked, the whole world came together. Khowst is bigger than Kuwait. When Khowst was attacked, we wrote to the secretary general of the United Nations, asking the Security Council to intervene. But we got no reaction," he said.

He was referring to four letters sent in the last fortnight by the Afghan Government to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, accusing Pakistan of open aggression against it.

Gardeyz Seen as Mujahidin's 'Next Major Target'

BK0304111491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 91 pp 1, 9

[Text] Peshawar, April 2—Heavy concentration of Kabul forces has been reported from Gardeyz which could be the next major target of the mujahidin following the fall of Khowst two days back.

Besides strengthening its defences Kabul may also be thinking in terms of retaliation as suggested by at least five Scud attacks in the Khowst sector on Monday [1 April]. Those attacks caused 15 deaths and wounded more than 30. However, bad weather over the two days prevented it from undertaking air sorties and it might have facilitated the resistance victory which could be described as the first major win in two years following the Soviet withdrawal.

Afghan sources reporting a meeting between Engineer Gulbuddin and Haqqani said they reviewed the post-Khowst fall situation and the role of the security forces. President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and Minister Burhanuddin Rabbani have hailed the Khowst victory and hoped that it would lead to more successes.

Reports received from across the border said that General Shahnawaz Tanay, who escaped to Pakistan and joined the resistance after his abortive coup against Doctor Najib, was associated actively with the thrust on Khowst. Gen. Tanay also hails from Khowst and though a die-hard communist, his contacts in the city had helped the mujahidin operation which was a joint effort by different organisations.

It added that what really contributed to the capture of the "mini-Moscow" was the better strategy by the resistance, otherwise this city had withstood the pressure for 12 summers.

Another report from Khowst said the mujahidin were now engaged in consolidating their administrative control over the captured garrison city and [are] busy in removing the dead and wounded. The exact number of dead and injured, however, was not yet available and there are conflicting reports about these losses.

Meanwhile, the Afghan military commanders also met in Kabul for several hours yesterday. Reports from the Afghan capital said that retaliation in some form should be expected from Kabul and this could either be in the form of intensified Scud attacks and bombing at the mujahidin concentrations.

Mujahidin Said in 'Complete Control' of Khowst

BK0404115891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Latest reports from Afghanistan speak of complete control of mujahidin on Khowst which was captured (?in) a combined action this week. It has been confirmed now that during the operation, a number of

Kabul regime aircraft were destroyed on the airfield. According to reports, life is fast returning to normalcy and the administrative activities are now in full swing. A joint council consisting of 22 members representing commanders who took part in the operation is governing the affairs of the town. Over 500 sick and wounded of the Kabul troops found in the area have been shifted to mujahidin-controlled hospitals and clinics in safe areas for treatment. On the other hand, regime troops who surrendered to mujahidin are now being looked after respectfully and those who wanted to join their families have been allowed to go.

Mujahidin Commander Discusses 'March to Kabul'

BK0404121691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 4 Apr 91

[By Mohsen Reza]

[Text] Miram Shah, Pakistan, April 4 (AFP)—The huge quantity of military equipment seized during the Afghan resistance takeover of Khowst will be jointly used by mujahidin in "our march to Kabul," top commander Jalaluddin Haqqani said here.

Mr. Haqqani, who led thousands of guerrillas from various factions to Sunday's [31 March] victory in the Afghan garrison city, 30 kilometers from this Pakistani border town, said the mujahidin now had only two goals.

"Our efforts will be to retain control of Khowst and then launch attacks on Gardeyz, Ghazni and Logar ... In our march to Kabul," Mr. Haqqani said in an interview here. The captured weapons will be used collectively in these operations, he added.

Four days after the fall of Khowst, guerrillas were seen Wednesday [3 April] trucking away crates of weapons and ammunition as Afghan government Scud missile attacks and bombings continued. Resistance sources said up to 10 Scud missiles had fallen since the seizure of Khowst.

Seated on an Afghan rug in this border town, and flanked by resistance commanders who continue to throng his base after the victory, the turbaned guerrilla gave no sign of excitement.

Serious and composed, Mr. Haqqani, who completed his studies in a religious school in Pakistan, was observing fast as he spoke Tuesday [2 April] to the first group of journalists to visit here since the successful operation.

The resistance, which has been struggling to topple the Soviet-backed regime for 12 years, seized tonnes of arms and ammunition in the heavily supplied garrison after over two weeks of bloody fighting.

Mr. Haqqani's forces are holding 2,200 Kabul government prisoners, 400 of them wounded who were receiving treatment in a hospital set up in his base in Pakistan. The captured officers include the garrison commander General Gul Agha, he said.

Many officers, including the chief of the provincial secret service General Rehmat Shah, Political Commissar General Mohammed Ali and a defence ministry nominee General Darya Khan were missing.

"We know they are still hiding" in the area, he said. Mr. Haqqani said he believed they would have to give up as mujahidin were controlling all routes out of the town.

Another guerrilla leader said seven Kabul army generals had been captured in the fighting.

The mujahidin fighters also captured about three dozen aircraft, including Soviet-supplied jets and large transport planes, but only a few were said to be operational.

"We are examining the technicalities of using the captured city's two airstrips," Mr. Haqqani said, without ruling out the possibility of setting up a guerrilla air force.

"If it became technically possible, mujahidin will definitely use the aircraft in their future operations," Mr. Haqqani said.

Western diplomats in Islamabad, who were surprised by the resistance victory, agreed that the win had given the resistance a substantial base inside Afghanistan and a windfall of military equipment and ammunition.

The city is now under the control of a council of resistance commanders and Mr. Haqqani said life would resume as normal after mines were cleared and the Kabul regime halted its bombing and scud missile attacks.

"We would like the refugees to return to Khowst where hospitals and other civic amenities will be provided," he said.

At least 1,000 families have taken refuge in Miram Shah in the wake of the fighting.

He said the prisoners of war would be treated well and allowed to communicate with their families. "We will free the soldiers, but not officers as they always join the regime," he said.

Asked if they could be executed, he said that "their fate will be decided after proper interrogation."

He said "it will not be politically useful" to shift the headquarters of the Peshawar-based mujahidin government to Khowst.

He said details of mujahidin losses were still awaited as the guerrilla forces were deployed in six different fronts during the attack on Khowst. Some 80 mujahidin were killed among his forces while Kabul forces lost nearly 200 men.

But he said "the number of injured mujahidin was much higher, because this was a face-to-face fight and mujahidin had no such experience."

India

Envoy Speaks on UN Gulf Cease-Fire Resolution

BK0404093291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] India has called on the Security Council to lift all nonmilitary sanctions against Iraq soon after Baghdad accepts UN conditions for a permanent cease-fire. Addressing the council just before it adopted a resolution on a permanent cease-fire, the Indian ambassador, Mr. C.R. Gharekhan, also called for laying down a framework which will lead to a durable peace and stability in West Asia.

Expressing New Delhi's support achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution in the region, Mr. Gharekhan said the UN resolution will not be able to achieve such an objective unless other issues in the region are solved. Reports say the Indian representative, although voting for the resolution laying stiff conditions on Iraq for a permanent cease-fire, succeeded in getting several clauses changed, which should have been harsher.

Indian, Pakistani Foreign Secretaries To Meet

BK0304160691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] A two-day foreign secretary-level meeting between Pakistan and India begins in New Delhi on Friday [5 April]. Among other things, the meeting will consider recommendations of civil and military authorities to reduce tension on the border and create an atmosphere of confidence. Reports say the senior officials at their meeting that ended in New Delhi have reviewed the possibility of concluding the agreement between the two countries on providing advance information of military exercises and on avoiding violation of each other's airspace, apart from discussing other issues.

Janata Dal-S Leader Shukla Defects to Congress-I

BK0304165691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] In a political development, the Janata Dal-S leader and former external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, has joined the Congress-I. Announcing his decision at a press conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Shukla said he has joined the party unconditionally to strengthen the secular and democratic forces.

Gujarat Chief Announces New Party, Goals

BK0404092891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The Gujarat chief minister and senior Janata Dal-S leader, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, has announced that a new regional party—Old Janata Dal-Gujarat—has been formed this afternoon. Briefing newsmen in Ahmedabad today after the crucial meeting of the Janata Dal-S MP's [members of parliament], MLA's [members of legislative assembly], workers, and leaders, Mr. Patel said the new party will enter into an electoral alliance with the Congress-I in a majority of the Lok Sabha seats in the state. A 14-member committee has been formed to decide about the Constitution, election symbol, and electoral alliances.

Uttar Pradesh State Assembly Dissolved

BK0404090291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh Governor Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy has dissolved the State Assembly. The governor has also asked the present Cabinet to continue until alternative arrangements are made. Earlier, the State Cabinet at its meeting yesterday decided to recommend dissolution of the state assembly and holding of elections along with the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

Speaking to newsmen in Lucknow this morning, the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, said the decision to recommend dissolution of the assembly was taken to end the political uncertainty in the state. He said his party will go for an electoral alliance with parties committed to fight communal forces. Mr. Yadav denied any possibility of a poll pact with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. In reply to a question, he ruled out the possibility of the formation of any regional party.

In the meantime, the Congress-I said it has withdrawn support to the Janata Dal-S government in Uttar Pradesh. Announcing this at a news conference in Lucknow today, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Narain Dutt Tiwari, said the decision of the Congress-I legislature party has been conveyed to the governor, Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy. He said his party decided to withdraw support to Mr. Yadav because it was not satisfied with the working of the government. The Congress-I had 94 members in the Vidhan Sabha [legislative assembly], while the Janata Dal-S strength was 125 in the 425-member house.

The Congress-I has demanded imposition of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh following withdrawal of the party's support to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. The demand was made by a five-member delegation of the party led by Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat when it called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] today. Later, Mr. Bhagat told our correspondent that Mr. Yadav should not be allowed to head a caretaker government. He said Mr. Yadav's government had been reduced to a minority and therefore it cannot continue as a caretaker government. The delegation also included Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, and Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.

The BJP has also demanded imposition of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh and elections to the state assembly along with the Lok Sabha polls. The Janata Dal-S spokesman, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, said the withdrawal of the Congress-I support to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government was not something unexpected.

Iran

Reportage on Visit by Swiss Foreign Minister

Denounces 'Tyrannical' Iraqi Rulers

LD0304152491 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—Visiting Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber today strongly denounced the "tyrannical behaviour" of the Iraqi rulers toward the people in that country.

Felber, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also termed Iran's contribution to the restoration of security and stability in the region "very important".

He also stressed the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people to determine their own fate, and condemned human rights abuses in occupied Palestine.

"Iran follows a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of others including Iraq and believes that the Iraqi people have the right to chart out their own destiny", Velayati answered.

He expressed sympathies with the hardships faced by the Iraqi people and said "we spare no humanitarian aid such as foodstuff and medicine to redress their sufferings."

Velayati described the issue of Palestine as "a very important Islamic issue" for Iran and said Palestinians who have fallen victim would return to their homeland.

The issue of Afghanistan also came up during the session, where the Iranian foreign minister laid emphasis on cooperation among the Afghan people in determining their fate.

The Swiss foreign minister arrived here on Tuesday.

[Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian at 1700 GMT on 3 April, in a similar report on the meeting between Felber and Velayati, adds the following information: "In the said meeting, the Afghan issue was also raised and in this regard Mr. Velayati stressed the need for every single person in Afghanistan to participate in determining their own destiny, and for that country's affairs to be administered by all groups present in the Afghan political arena."]

President Seeks Aid for Refugee Problem

LD0304120991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber this morning. In the meeting, the Swiss foreign minister expressed gratitude for the attention of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to humanitarian issues and its cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. He said: We regret existing conditions on the Iranian borders regarding refugees and believe that the international community must help the Islamic Republic of Iran with the refugee problem. Praising the principled and neutral policies of the Islamic Republic in the recent events in the Persian Gulf, he told our president that the Swiss Government is grateful for the cooperation of the Islamic Republic with the EC. He called for the further expansion of cultural, political, and economic ties between the two countries.

At the meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The neutral and independent policy of Switzerland is an appropriate model for international cooperation. For this reason we were able to maintain good relations with your country during the turbulent period of the Islamic revolution.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president expressed concern about the increasing rate of emigration to our country of the disaster-stricken people of Iraq. He said: We are witnessing a great deal of pressure by those refugees who have had to flee under the Iraqi regime's pressure, and the dimensions of the flood of refugees from that country are expanding daily. In this regard, the International Red Cross should come to the aid of the war refugees and bring about conditions to solve their problems. More important, measures must be taken to eliminate the causes of the flight. Describing the social problems of the refugees and their hard life, the president added: If a strong move is made in the region to prevent such emigration, the Islamic Republic is quite ready to cooperate in this regard. The issue at stake are of special priority for the Islamic Republic. We hope that the international community and Switzerland will take effective measures in this connection.

The president added: It is surprising that the allied forces, which are among the causes of this catastrophe for the people of Iraq, are indifferent to these heart-rending issues.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also welcomed the expansion of Iranian- Swiss ties in all fields.

Reportage on Visit by EC Delegation

Velayati Meets With Delegation

LD0304192691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The ways and means of expanding relations between the EC and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the latest developments in the Persian Gulf crisis, the critical situation in Iraq, and problems relating to the structure of regional security were explored in this afternoon's meeting between the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy, and the Netherlands—who are leading a high-ranking delegation from the EC on a visit to Tehran—and Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister of our country. According to a report from the Central News Unit, the foreign minister of Luxembourg—who currently holds the post of EC presidency—lauded the neutral position

of Iran vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf war and stressed the sensitive and pivotal role of Iran in the region. Concerning the situation in Iraq, he said: The view of the EC is that the nonexistence of democracy in Iraq has helped the continuation of dictatorship in that country. He stressed the need for maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq and called for the realization of the demands of the popular uprising of Iraq. He announced his support for that uprising.

For his part, Mr. Velayati described the present situation in Iraq and expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern over the massacre of the Iraqi people who demand democracy. He said: Any security proposal for the Persian Gulf region must include the participation of the countries of the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to play its part for the provision of stability and peace in the region.

Luxembourg's Poos on Gulf Security

LD0304223191 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—The foreign minister of Luxembourg today described as "decisive" the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in maintaining security in the region.

"The European Community believes that the settlement of the regional issues should take place without imposing any foreign plan and should be inspired by the region itself," M. Jacques Poos told President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a meeting here also attended by Italian and Dutch foreign ministers.

"Therfore," Poos added, "we think that Iran's role in maintaining security in the region is decisive and we do not regard any solution to be logical without Iran's effective role."

The three EC foreign ministers arrived in Tehran at the head of a top-level delegation today for talks with Iranian officials on regional and international issues, as well as promotion of mutual ties in various areas.

Expressing pleasure at the visit of an EC delegation to Tehran, the foreign minister of Luxembourg told President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that his country will soon be hosting the summit meeting of 12 European states. "At this meeting, the current issues in the Persian Gulf as well as other international topics will be discussed. And it is of particular significance for us to learn about the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the most important country of the region," he remarked.

Turning to the people's uprising in Iraq, Poos said the EC believed that democracy should be established in that country and the people should decide their own fate. "The EC is ready to cooperate with Iran in solving the problems of the Iraqi people," he said.

Thanking the Luxembourg foreign minister for his remarks, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani voicing increasing concern over the "heart-rending" situation of the Iraqi people, said:

"In view of the situation created in our region as a result of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and the intervention of foreign forces, we believe that the whole of Europe should strongly endeavor to resolve the problems of the Iraqi people which is the most urgent issue of the region."

"Unfortunately, today there is not observed an appropriate sensitivity in the world's power centers to resolve the Iraqi issue. If the Iraqi issue is settled appropriately today, the security of the region would also be resolved. If the people take their destiny into their own hands in Iraq, nothing else would threaten security of the region and all the regional countries would have a sincere cooperation with each other.

"The Iraqi government, with its ruthless suppression of the people has committed its worst blunder. After that defeat (inflicted by the U.S.-led allies), the best thing it (Iraq) could do was to delegate the affairs of the country to its people, and the best thing the world could do today, was to help the Iraqi people interfere in the fate of their own country."

The president then wished success for the EC representatives and expressed hope that a suitable solution would be found to the problem of the oppressed people of Iraq. He said Iran would support any formula in favor of the Iraqi people and feared that a lack of attention to the important issue would turn Iraq into another Lebanon.

Velayati Calls For Aid for Kurds

LD0304224291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] In a news conference on Wednesday night that was also attended by the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy and Holland, Mr. Velayati said: The visit of the troika of EC foreign ministers to Iran is the first step in official trade and economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EC. The foreign minister of our country added: In the negotiations, an understanding was reached on the expansion of economic ties generally between Iran and the EC. The technical details are being discussed by the experts. Mr. Velayati continued: In our contacts with the troika in New York and Tehran, the grounds for bilateral cooperation were explored. We may witness the opening of the EC's office in Tehran in the near future.

Concerning the current problems in Iraq and the confrontation of that country's government against the popular forces, Mr Velayati said: According to information we have received from Iraqi opposition sources, Kurdish cities are being bombarded with napalm. Iraq is using all types of weapons in the suppression of the Kurds. The foreign minister of our country said that the

only solution to the current crisis in Iraq is the establishment of democracy in that country.

With regard to the arrival of Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran, he said: There are around 2 million Kurds in Iraq. Their towns are being bombarded by the Iraqi regime. They are seeking refuge in Iran and Turkey. We are duty bound to help the people of Iraq without discrimination between Arab or Kurd. Our borders are open to all refugees, be they Afghan, Iraqi, or Kuwaiti. Mr. Velayati called for international help, the help of the [UN] High Commission for Refugees, and the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran.

In the news conference, concerning the talks of the troika of foreign ministers with Iranian officials, Mr. !acques Poos, the foreign minister of Luxembourg and current EC president, said: In this meeting, discussions took place concerning the improvement of economic cooperation between the EC and Iran. Peaceful solutions to the problems of Afghanistan and Lebanon were also discussed and explored. Mr. Poos also spoke of economic aid from the EC to Iraq, and concerning the confrontation of the Iraqi government against popular forces, he said: We call for a [UN] Security Council session to examine this issue.

Delegation Departs

LD0404105391 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—A three-member Economic Community (EC) delegation comprising of the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Italy left Tehran Thursday morning. Members of the delegation were Foreign Minister of Luxemburg Jacques Poos, of the Netherlands Hans van den Broek, and of Italy Gianni de Michelis.

The delegation said as long as Saddam Husayn continues to rule in Iraq the member states of the Economic Community will not be able to cooperate with Iraq.

Head of the delegation from Luxemburg said that in their one-day stay in Iran the delegation has reviewed the Arab-Israeli issue, the situation in Lebanon and other issues of the Middle East.

Asked to comment on the West's silence in the face of the rapidly increasing crimes in Iraq by Saddam Husayn, he said the issue should be studied by the Arab League.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said during the one-day visit to Tehran of the three EC members Iran-EC relations, as well as regional security had been reviewed.

He said the visit to Tehran by the EC delegation had been a "long and positive stride" in relations between the EC and Iran. He noted that the Economic Community has an independent and integrated identity and that its member states adopt identical attitude in political issues.

Velayati, Dumas Hold Phone Conversation on Iraq

LD0404102591 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday night described the internal situation in Iraq as "worrisome" and called for Tehran-Paris further consultation in this regard.

The French minister also discussed the internal situation in Iraq, condition of Kurds and Shiites in that country as well as the regional situation.

Dumas announced his country's readiness to assist the Iraqi refugees.

Referring to the deplorable condition of the Iraqi refugees, Velayati stressed that the Islamic Republic will continue to extend humanitarian assistance to them.

The two ministers agreed to hold further consultations in future.

* RESALAT Report on 21 Jan Majles Session

91AS0526A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Jan 91 p 5

[Excerpt] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday's public Majles session met yesterday in the morning and in the afternoon.

At yesterday's session, after comments by the deputies from Darud, Khalkhal, Paveh, and Mashhad, the Majles took up its agenda and continued its consideration of the details of the national budget bill for the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Seyyed Mohsen Shafi'i, Darud and Azna Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Seyyed Mohsen Shafi'i from the Darud and Azna electoral district.

He said: O Mohammad (peace be upon him), O honest God-given prophet, idol-smasher of history, in your sacred land, a swarm of infidel idol-worshipping wolves, carcasses, and buzzards have gathered and started a spreading fire. The sacred Hejaz, the land where truth was sought and the place of Mohammad's ascent to heaven, has now become a base for infidels, atheists, plunderers, rebels and oppressors, and the Kaaba of truth has been occupied and al-Najaf and Karbala' are trembling and burning in a satanic fire.

He added: Now the idol-smashing imam of the revolution is shouting that he will take the peace and stability away from the mother of corruption of the century, and it has not been forgotten that the dear leader of the Islamic revolution says: America must realize that the nations of the region will never permit America to

become the gendarme of the region, and every government that allows America to establish a base will be thrown out of power by the peoples of that country.

He added: The exalted leader of the Islamic revolution says: This war is a holy war, and whoever is killed in the war against America is a martyr. Therefore national enthusiasm, religious prejudice, and divine duty requires the oppressed nations of the region, especially the revolutionary nation of Iran, must rise to this sacred holy war and turn the Persian Gulf into a graveyard for America, England, and France. They must take blood revenge for all the slaughtered people of history and the martyrs of the Islamic revolution from America and its cohorts.

He noted: The Zionists must know that just as we defended those who hurled stones in occupied Palestine, we will support any attack that takes place against Israel.

Let the world know that America, this evil buzzard of war, will soon collapse in the Middle East and the forces of the coalition nations will go to Hell.

He added: Why did the parrot-like United Nations Security Council, which ordered a devastating war on the pretext of the irreligious Emir of Kuwait being driven out of the country while America leads the assault and England calls Iraq's missile attacks against Israel aggression, sit shamelessly by with lips closed during Great Satan's intervention and open aggression against against Panama, Vietnam, Korea, Cambodia, Grenada, Laos, Tabas, and during the martyrdom of 300 civilians in the shooting down of the Iranian aircraft, even encouraging the aggressor? These people must realize that the people of the world have risen up against them, and soon their palace of oppression will collapse over their heads.

He said: I remind the Foreign Ministry and the Voice and Vision Organization that in offering clear, direct and courageous explanations the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution has stated the truth concerning the Persian Gulf Crisis, the presence of the Great Satan and the duties of the people of Iran and the world. In their policy-making and political commentaries, they must act more seriously and in a more revolutionary manner, for our cry is the cry of deliverance from polytheists and our war is the war of poor versus rich. Our cry is the cry of struggle until the disturbance is removed from the world and our cry is the cry of death to America.

In conclusion he added: Another point is a reminder and an answer to the newspaper RESALAT with regard to the insertion of an article in one of its recent issues concerning the interpellation of the former minister of health and treatment.

I must state with full regret that sometimes it is seen that this newspaper, without taking care (even in special circumstances) is always causing discord and weakness in the Majles. The author of the article, making a buffoon's prediction and hoping another minister will not be interpellated, implies that this action of interpellating a minister is an improper use of a legal right. The writer must avail himself of the clear language in the Constitution in this regard and study the laws once more. The readers of articles of this type will themselves read a detailed account of this compendium, and perhaps the mission of some people is this very thing.

Seyyed Motahar Kazemi, Khalkhal Deputy

Mr. Seyyed Motahar Kazemi of the Khalkhal electoral district was the second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session.

He said: Among the unchanging principles are the struggle and refusal to compromise of the Islamic revolution and the lovers of His Holiness the Imam, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the followers of the leader of the Muslims and the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution.

Because of its aggressive thinking and essence and its world-devouring habits, America is despised and is the object of the wrath of the free and aware people of the world of Islam. The appearance of various forms of aggression by Israel and Saddam have arisen through the ideas and spirit America has created. This thinking is controlled exclusively by the person of America. If America knows, every act of aggression in the world takes place either with its permission or authorization. Not only will it not protest it, it has even provided and does provide various kinds of support. If Saddam tore up the Algiers Accord one day and openly attacked Islamic Iran, he had the political, military and financial support of America and its agents. Not only did it support with all its being usurper Israel because of its crimes in Palestine and Lebanon, but it has consistently vetoed the condemnations of Israel in the Security Council. Consequently whoever commits any form of aggression, whether large or small, in the framework of America's policy, has no fear. However, if he wants to make America's claims and show the world-devouring spirit, it reacts quickly because this quality is restricted to the person of America. It is clear that Saddam's aggression against Kuwait, as well as Israel's aggression against Palestine and Lebanon, arose from America's thinking. Today professor and student and master and disciple are at war with each other. The world must realize that all the oppressed people of the world, especially the Muslims of the world, are suffering from this thinking. Today the breasts of Muslims, especially those in the heroic nation of Iran, are full of anger, rancor and cries against America. Today the evil triangle of America, Israel and Saddam, because they monopolize the spirit of aggression, are fighting each other beside the pit of fire and downfall. Today the nation of 55 million in Iran is like 55 million barrels of gunpowder and explosives about to explode against aggression, but the fuse to all 55 million barrels of gunpowder is in the hand of the exalted leader, and the moment he so indicates with his messianic breath, the whole thing will go up in flames. Today it is incumbent upon the Muslims of the world and the Islamic governments to renew their pact and allegiance

to the leader of the world of Islam, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, turn all their resources over to his excellency, and await his command. Even Saddam, if he really means it when he says "our slogan is your slogan and our goal is your goal" with "God is great" newly written on his flag, should present himself and his resources to the leader of the Muslim world and obey his first command, to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and make everyone confident of just and true leadership, the ship's captain, the pilot, and the commander-in-chief. Then let them see what suffering will befall America and Israel. [passage omitted]

Continuing, he added: The imam (peace be upon him) in his treatise on ways and means, said: A qualified scholar with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence may issue a judicial verdict. After the formation of a judicial system in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, can anyone issue two verdicts anywhere? From behind this podium not only do I take arms in hand, but for I am ready for any suicidal operation to deal a fatal blow to America. Definitely, the whole nation has this preparedness.

He added: It is a great shame today for the Muslim world that America is using its fighter and spy planes against Muslims from the land of revelation, and flying them. Today the bombing of the oppressed people in al-Najaf and Karbala' by America is a great pain, and if someone dies of his pain there is no reproach.

Baba Khas, Paveh Deputy

Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Baba Khas, Paveh and Owramanat deputy, began his remarks by complaining to the minister of the interior concerning his inattention to the problems in his electoral district. He then continued his remarks, and said: The savage and insane attack by the evil NATO coalition led by America against Iraq on the pretext of liberating Kuwait and supporting the resolutions of the United Nations has opened a bloody page in the shameful and criminal annals of imperialism. The war erupted in the Persian Gulf, an unequal and devastating war, whose long-standing grudge against Islam and the Muslims rained down on the defenseless people of Iraq and the sacred sites in the form of destructive missiles and bombs, which truly pains the heart of every Muslim. As is being seen, there was such an uproar in Muslim society that when direction is given to these Islamic feelings and partisan spirit and the repugnance for the policy of imperialism, an earth-wrenching flood will be created which world imperialism, Israel and their mercenaries will not be able to resist for a moment. There is no doubt that this unity, harmony and action will form around the leadership of our Islamic revolution, and with the oppressed nation of Iraq we will uproot forever the evil of infidelity and polytheism from the Middle East and ultimately from the world.

The speaker then continued: God forbid that we should ignore the sacred aspirations of our Islamic revolution for which our dear ones have shed blood and which the infidel front has attacked and whose imperialist power we have damaged, and in reality the damage was done by the Muslims of Iran, and God forbid that we should overlook its plots. He cited a remark by an American congressman who said: We have several justifications for turning the war over to Bush (1) to fight Islamic fundamentalism, which is initiated and backed by Iran (2) to take over the entire economy of the Middle East (3) the Palestinians have become extremists and must be put in their place. He continued his remarks as follows: Is it still possible to say that this invasion is to liberate Kuwait and against Iraq?

Mr. Baba Khas also noted: Ozal, the mercenary president of Turkey, who seems to have taken the lead away from all the mercenaries by making a dastardly and inhumane attack against Iraq and the area of Kirkuk, Zakhu, and Dukan, bombed Iraqi Kordestan. While I express my disgust for him and his shameful government, I warn the Kurdish Muslims in Turkey, Iran and Iraq that if you do not want to create permanent shame for yourselves and history and if in these sensitive circumstances you want to settle accounts or be deceived by the enemy's promises, it is incumbent upon you to prevent it if they with their mercenary characteristics want to serve the enemy. You must know that you are the descendants of Salah al-Din Ayyubi and you must attack the enemy and liberate Jerusalem again. Likewise, with organization and precise planning, you must strike repeatedly the resources of the West and the Turkish army to take away from him the opportunity to attack and invade Iraqi soil and slaughter Kurdish Muslims.

He emphasized: The treacherous enemy cannot be trusted, for he sees his life in our destruction. Let us also become united against their evil union. Just as Iraq cannot speak of attacking Turkey without being threatened with invasion by NATO members, likewise we will not permit anyone to attack a member of our union. If the Islamic nations become united, they will form a great power, they will not be obliged to be lackeys and mercenaries to defend themselves, and the Muslim nations will not tolerate mercenary rulers. After that, Muslims will resolve their differences. In answer to the great man who said Iraq should leave Kuwait, then the Muslims will expel the enemy, I say let it not be our aim that the enemy should be expelled; instead he must be destroyed. Let us be assured that if water flows over the mill wheel, flour will be produced.

The Paveh and Owramanat deputy thanked and praised the Muslim people of Iran, especial the Kurdish people, for declaring their revulsion at the invasion by America and the NATO member forces against the Muslim nation of Iraq.

Hadi Khamene'i, Mashhad Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, Mashhad deputy, who began his talk by saying: Of course the extraordinarily sensitivity of the current issues in the Persian Gulf is too much to permit analysis

in a few minutes, unfortunately the very restricted scope of destiny has given little opportunity for the representatives of the people and in reality the people themselves to understand and study the important issues in the region, and a few seconds of this sort of care must occur while when for long and countless hours we watch on the Voice and Vision and other media the same analyses, which are significantly different from the external reality and also from the primary mission of the Islamic revolution. Without doubt what has happened and is happening in the region has a primary, root and fundamental cause, and that is the active presence of the Islamic revolution in the region as the primary base of evolution-causing Islamic thought and ideology, the same phenomenon upon whose birth all the imperialist and Satanic governments, led by the Great Satan, sounded the alarm. Naturally the analysis of events will be quite different depending on whether one assumes the presence or absence of a powerful Islamic revolution in the space of those events. In view of this, it would be quite simpleminded of us to attribute the extensive attack by America and its allies against the Persian Gulf to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Continuing, he added: Several months before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the commander in chief of America's joint forces in the Middle East had said, "to preserve the flow of oil and protect friendly countries in the Persian Gulf area, the American government will not remove its military forces from the region." In the view of those with a small awareness of the history of imperialism and the essence of the imperialists, there is no doubt that the presence of the infidel and polytheist guard in the Persian Gulf area and the anchoring of NATO warships alongside the Islamic Republic is solely and only for the purpose of settling accounts with that nation which has made the greatest headaches for them since the day of its inception and which has destroyed the foundations of their imperialist policies.

The speaker then made the point that America's main reason for extensively invading the strategic Persian Gulf region is to control the oil as well as the wealthiest point in the world. He said: According to international reports, America is now suffering from crippling economic stagnation and, to save itself from the turmoil of this problem, and naturally the Zionist government before everything else has put America in this predicament, the American Government is threatening its primary supporters, the same big Zionist capitalists, with bankruptcy and sale. On the one hand the emerging events and tumultuous, military and political issues can eclipse and erase from memory America's domestic problems, and sometimes a success, no matter how superficial in putting an end to foreign problems, can be chalked up as a victory for the government and used as a means to justify domestic problems. On the other hand, the most important known method that can deliver America's gigantic and Zionist capitalists from peril is war. That is the only way to use up the main production goods of the factories, which are arms and munitions. The greatest means for American capitalists to triumph over the economic problems is to consume in a short time in one place most of the produced, available and *surplus goods, whose non-sale is the equivalent of bank*ruptcy. Of course, 100 times of course, the cost will be borne by the weak and unfortunate countries who always have carried and carry on their shoulders the heavy burden of the useless expenditures and pleasures of the imperialists. Thus there is the joint strategy of the imperialist nations during the last century or two in coming into the waters of the Persian Gulf since the time of the Portuguese and the English until today in the time of the Great Satan on the one hand, and the vital and inevitable importance of the Islamic revolution among the countries and nations of this region on the other hand form the basic philosophy of the presence and invasion of this evil imperialist union in the region. In such a view, Iraq's imposed war on Iran is seen as part of America's attack on the Islamic Republic. The interesting thing is that the chief factor in analyzing the aforementioned war is the extent of its presence and management by America and its allies, not the war itself in physical terms or in terms of its casualties and war and financial losses. It was for this reason that after the tragic and bloody Mecca incident the great late imam (greetings of God upon him) said concerning this subject, "if we forgive Saddam, we will not forgive Fahd and these crimes." Why is this reality, despite the lower number of fatal casualties than in the Namad war, being shown as more sensitive because of America's presence and the stronger foothold of imperialist influence in the heart of the Islamic nations? Following this same line and procedure, we also must look at the false and the motivations.

Mr. Hadi Khamene'i also noted: The reality is that even if Kuwait had not been attacked, these uninvited guests would still have found an excuse to come. This vicious beast attacks and sheds blood wherever its prey is threatened. It does not care whether it is Kuwait, the Hejaz, or somewhere else. It does not accept at all the entirety of the territory of nations. The laws and regulations of the United Nations are of no importance to it. Where it is attacking our Islamic nation is in speaking officially of drying up our roots and our nation, and where control of Kuwait and the Hejaz are slipping out of its hands it becomes an excuse to defend human rights and territorial integrity. In the matter of Palestine, which has no logic or pretext, it gets help from the cowardly and sullen reactionary leaders in the area. In matters such as Grenada and Panama, it uses the logic of force. It must not be forgotten that America and also England have a permanent grudge in their hearts against us and our Islamic revolution. Removing our vast nation from their clutches on 22 Bahman [11 February 1979] and imposing humiliation and degradation on the criminal spies in our eight-year imposed war, despite his sabotage during the peace talks and the daily-increasing influence of the line of the Islamic revolution, the imam's line, the line of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) in

the world, have all planted permanent grudges in the hearts of our enemies and I do not think they will forget these grudges.

He also said: We must value the assaults and rocket attacks on occupied Palestine and we must help the Palestinians in their extensive attacks against world Zionist interests.

Continuing his remarks, the Mashhad deputy discussed two subjects, and presented it as a memo to officials.
1 - Now that our nation has declared neutrality in the war, any kind of violation of neutrality by aggressors such as intrusion into our air space, firing missiles and other things, must be vigorously answered.

2 - In addition to reporting on the official decisions of officials, the Voice and Vision is required to broadcast discussions and statements by the Majles, which is the main pillar of government. Therefore censoring statements signed by the majority of the deputies expressing the depth of their revulsion and disgust at America and the extensive attack of world imperialism in this event and broadcasting only the statement of regret by the deputies and leaving the people with no information about the views of their representatives is at odds with the primary responsibility of this public medium.

Majles Ratifications

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday morning's public Majles session states that in continued consideration of the details of the 1370 budget bill another group of deputy proposals concerning Notes 8 and 9 of this bill were approved. On this basis, concerning Note 8 it was agreed that the following paragraph would be added to the bottom of this note as a supplement:

The per capita education and training costs will receive 22.2 billion rials, which will be obtained through the sale of foreign exchange.

The government must pay the difference on bank interest-free loan commissions produced by payments made implementing the Housing Procurement Law in the year 1370.

Based on Note 9, 384 billion rials from the credits in row 503041 in Table 1 in Part 9 of this law will be made available to the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics to be spent for programs approved by the commander in chief. These credits are allocated based on the request of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics and as recommended by the Plan and Budget Organization and approved by the Council of Ministers.

A - The military and police Armed Forces must buy munitions and military equipment which cannot be produced domestically from foreign sources exclusively through the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

B - Note 45 of the 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] budget law and Note 47 of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget law and other laws and regulations at variance with the provisions of this note are void.

C - The report on the manner of spending credits on the purchase of major defense items under this note will be prepared by accountants selected by a council composed of the members listed below and in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, and will be made available to this council.

1 - A member of the Majles defense affairs committee, chosen by the committee.

2 - A member of the Majles plan and budget committee, chosen by the committee.

3 - A member of the Majles public expenditure tribunal committee, chosen by the committee.

4 - The chief of the National Accounting Court or his representative.

5 - A representative of the minister of defense and Armed Forces logistics.

6 - A representative of the vice president of the Republic and the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization.

The representatives mentioned in Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 must be selected from the deputies to the aforesaid officials. The chief of the council will be designated by the council's members and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics will assume responsibility for the council secretariat.

The first meeting of the council will take place no later than the end of Farvardin 1370 [20 April 1991] on the invitation of the minister of defense and Armed Forces logistics and at the site of the secretariat. This council must meet at least once a month and will need two-thirds attendance for a quorum.

The council will send the aforementioned reports to the exalted leader and the president of the republic without result. This council's deliberations will not negate the duties and responsibilities of the National Accounting Court.

D - The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Intelligence must submit a report on work done under this note every three months through the Plan and Budget Organization to the committees of defense, plan and budget, councils and domestic affairs, and the Majles Accounting Court.

E - Financial resources needed to complete and build missile and radar sites, docks and ports, factories to make aircraft, naval and armored munitions, ammunition, and missiles provided for in the plan will be obtained through credits in this note.

F - The Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized to obtain up to 50 percent and no more than five billion rials (5,000,000,000) from the funds collected in 1370 from user fees, water and electricity,

communications, fuel and other joint services by the organizational houses of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran deposited in the public accounts on row 330100 Part 3 of this law from the credits in row 111202 and in accordance with Note 2, Article 7 of the Law on How To Use Organizational Houses of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted in Mordad 1363 [23 July-22 August] based on letters of agreement negotiated with the Plan and Budget Organization to be spent on repair and maintenance costs for organizational houses.

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday afternoon's public Majles session states that in this session also consideration of the details of the 1370 budget law continued and the remaining proposals by the deputies concerning Note 9 were approved.

Note 9 - G - Foreign purchases of major defense items will be made under the supervision of a council composed of the following members within the limits of approved credits:

1 - A representative of the Armed Forces General Command Staff.

2 - A representative of the Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3 - A representative of the General Command of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC].

4 - A representative of the minister of defense and Armed Forces logistics.

5 - A representative of the president of the republic.

Two representatives of the Plan and Budget Committee and the Defense Committee elected by the Majles, two representatives of the Foreign Ministry, and one representative of the Ministry of Intelligence will attend meetings of this council as observers. The president of the council will be a representative of the president of the republic. The council mentioned in this paragraph is not authorized to validate purchases outside the country that can be produced domestically.

Likewise, the opening of credit documents for the aforementioned purchases by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the nation's other banks is forbidden prior to the approval of the council mentioned in this paragraph.

H - The Plan and Budget Organization must transfer all the credits for police forces working in the judicial and executive organizations by the end of the year 1369 from the credits of the pertinent organization to the Ministry of the Interior's credits and those of the police forces, and likewise in the budget bill for 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] credits for all police forces will be provided in the police force budget.

Current credits for the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the General Command of the IRGC, and the General Armed Forces Command Staff will be allocated in rows 111100, 112400, 111300, and 111400.

This matter will not negate the legal responsibilities of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics to supervise the expenditure of Armed Forces credits.

Credits for the IRGC Intelligence Custody Organization will be provided separately under row 112303 of the IRGC.

The sum of 1.5 billion rials is added to row 114100 of the General Armed Forces Command Staff from rows 111100, 111200 and 111300 respectively to a total of 300 million rials, 700 million rials and 500 million rials.

* RESALAT Report on 23 Jan Majles Session

91ASO534A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Section - The Majles held a public session yeterday in the morning and in the afternoon. In this session, deputies from Tehran and Torbat-e Heydariyeh spoke as pre-agenda speakers. The Majles then continued its deliberations on the details of the draft budget bill for the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Ali-Akbar Nateq Noori, Deputy From Tehran

It would be simple-mindedness if anyone believes that Saddam has changed his nature!

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public session of the Majles was Mr. Nateq Noori, deputy from Tehran, who stated in the beginning of his speech:

The foremost defender of values and principles that our exalted imam left for us and are based on genuine Islam of Mohammad, is the imam's rightful successor— the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution. If anyone wants to inflict the slightest harm to those principles, before anything else, he would face the imam-like protestation of the exalted leader of the revolution as we have witnessed during this short period. Enmity with America and Israel is one of those principles, and this is not something new. Since 1342 [starting 21 March 1963], the imam's call was against America and Israel. If our exalted imam went to exile, or the illustrious leader of our revolution and our eminent President and other revolutionaries were sent to exile or to prisons, it was all for the struggle against America and Israel. If Hasan-Ali Mansur's throat [an ex-prime minister during the time of the late Shah] was the target of bullets by Mohammad Bokhara'i from the united Islamic groups, it was because the treacherous call of America was heard by Mansur's voice. If we fought against the Shah, it was a fight against a mercenary of Israel and America. Fortunately and with God's blessing, this line has been maintained with full vigor and still continues. Nobody says or can say that America and her allies have entered the region rightfully. Never. These powers are domination-seeking profiteers who should get the hell out of this region and give its destiny to the nations of the region.

Mr. Nateq Noori then added: But one must not also accept that Saddam is right and his defense is defense of

Islam and justify this based on the verdicts of the imam. Is the imam's verdict on this issue applicable to the criminal government of Iraq and is this attack against and conflict with Iraq a danger to Islam? Does not the verdict apply to Iraq's attack on Kuwait and betrayal against people of that land and does not this bring about a religious duty on one's shoulder? Has it not been applicable to the aggression of Israel against the holy land of Palestine and so many criminal acts until now? And finally, does it not apply to the Soviet attack on and crime against the Muslim nation of Afghanistan and spilling the blood of innocent people of that country? This question requires a scholastic debate and the Majles is not the proper place for that. We have not yet forgotten the live burial of young girls in the city of Bostan, the destruction of cities and villages in the war-stricken province [Khuzistan], thousands of martyrs and the destruction of tens of schools, which along with hundreds of children disappeared from the face of the earth, those who were injured and must pay for a lifetime for the crimes of a criminal, and the effects of chemical bombardments on our brave Basijis. All these bear witness to the fact that like all other criminals, Saddam is a criminal in history and that the regimes of America, France, England, the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, the Sudan, and others supported him. America even directly entered the war against us and attacked our oil platforms and commercial airlines in his support. In my view, the innocent cry of our imam, who drank from the cup of poison [reference to Khomeyni's assertion that accepting the peace with Iraq was like drinking a cup of poison for him], and the cursing of martyrs families, the tears of the orphans waiting for their fathers, and the pure blood of our martyrs are revenging all those who were involved, in one way or the other, in doing injustice to our innocent nation.

The prayer, 'O God! Preoccupy those who do injustice with each other' was answered and the war of infidels against infidels began. This war can not be the war of Islam against infidels. Our imam (God's blessing be upon him) reminded us frequently of Saddam's danger and considered him a crazy and mad man who will not have mercy on anyone if he could have the power.

He then added: It would be simple-mindedness if anyone believes that Saddam has changed his nature. It would be far from the imam's line if we believe that Saddam will not come after us should he gain power.

Until very recently, Saddam spoke from a position of strength and was not prepared to talk about the 1975 Algier's treaty. He still has a difference of opinion with us about our water boundries, and has not given us a clear response about war prisoners. He is still supporting the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. He still deliberately prints false geography maps. Yes! it is simple-mindedness if we think that he has become a believer in Islam, in our revolution, and our imam just becuase he has hit Israel with two or three missiles. Never. As that respected author said, "in this war Islam is as important [sarcastic] as the Arabness was in the war against us, and Islamic slogans are as genuine as anti-Islamic and anti-revolutionary slogans were during that period." The interesting point is that we believe that jihad must be waged by a just mam, and our exalted imams did not sanction holy war under the flag of usurping and unjust caliphs.

Referring to traditions concerning war and jihad, Tehran's deputy pointed out that: A person went to His Holiness Sajjad (peace be upon him) and told him: You abandon the jihad and go on a pilgrammage, is the pilgrimmage easier for you than going to jihad? Whereas God has said "God has purchased of the believers their persons and their goods." [Koranic verse] His Holiness Sajjad asked him to recite the rest of the verse: "Those that turn (to God) in repentance; that serve Him, and praise Him; and observe the limits set by God; [these do rejoice]." If those who observe the limits set by God rise [to jihad], I would not prefer the pilgrimmage to jihad and on that day I will go to jihad, but only with the ones who observe the limits set by God.

Mr. Nateq Noori then added: With the presence of an exalted leader, the guardian of the Muslims' cause, there is no worry as to what our duty is. Whatever he orders, that is the duty. When the Supreme National Security Council holds a meeting in his presence and informs him of its policy regarding war in the region and receives his approval, there is no room for question and doubt. We, the deputies, have sworn to be loyal to and act according to the Constitution. The fifth clause of article 110 of the Constitution states that: Declaration of peace and war, and mobilization of forces are within the authority and duty of the leader. Moreover, according to the first clause of article 176 of the Constitution, determination of defence and security policies within the general framework of policy defined by the leader is part of the duties of the Supreme National Security Council. If it were not stated so clearly, obviously if anyone wanted to interpret the law according to his own taste and understanding, certainly nothing could be achieved and anarchy would prevail.

At the conclusion of his speech Tehran's deputy stated that:

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the president, the Supreme National Security Council, and to those authorities responsible for the affairs of war in the Persian Gulf and announce that our brave nation and the hezbollah have been and will be obedient to their leader, and whenever our exalted leader and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces decides and issues an order, we will all be at his service with all our ability and without any procrastination.

Ismai'l Sahmi Hesari, Deputy from Torbat-e Heydariyeh

The second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Ismai'l Sahmi Hesari from Torbat-e Heydariyeh. He stated that:

Everyone knows that from theologians point of view there are not more than three holy places on the planet earth. They are: 1) the Atabat-e Aliat [the Shi'a holy shrines] which are the shrines of the imams of our religion (such as Karbala', al-Najaf, Kazemein, and al-Samarah). 2) Masjid ol-Haram [Mecca], 3) Jerusalem.

For over 17 years Jerusalem was the qiblah for the Prophet of Islam and the Muslims and most prophets rose from this holy land and the tombs of many of them, such as Abraham and Jacob, peace be upon them, are located in this land.

The eight Crusades which were waged to push out the Muslims from Jerusalem are very well-known in history. The massacre of Muslims by the crusaders near Jerusalem during those years is also well-known. But, generally speaking, during most of the period since the emergence of Islam to the present, which is over 14 centuries, Jerusalem has been in the hands of the Muslims, and people of other revealed religions have been living in peace along with Muslims. At the end of World War II, the dark plots of America and England brought a group of Zionists in the name of Jews and settled them in that land, elements who are not genuine Jews but are indeed mercenaries of colonialism, and everyday they appear in a new form and with a new demand.

He added: Today we are witnessing that next to God's divine sanctuary, the Mecca that is "the sanctuary for whosoever arrives there" and the center of God's revelation where his holiness the last prophet of God [Mohammad] was given his mission, and the place from which Islam spread to the world and conquered the East and the West, has fallen into the hands of a group of pretentious Muslims, such as the Saudis, the real agents of America and Israel, who place these valuable treasures of Islam at the disposal of America and Israel. They have initiated this war not to destroy Saddam, neither for the love of Kuwait nor because of animosity with Saddam, but in order to destroy Islam.

He then added: Are we the Muslims in love with Saddam or Fahd?! Never. Do we have any greed toward Kuwaiti, Iraqi, or Turkish territories? Never.

Mr. Sahmi then continued and stated that: The day that the situation demands, with the order of our leader and under one banner, we will act to destroy America, Israel, England, and their other cliques. We are the same people that during 10 years of war sacrificed everything but did not and will not sacrifice our ideas, ideology and our religion. They will be buried with this wish. The nation of Iran has become the model for the world. This nation has been successful in the export of revolution as well. If we see that people march in Europe, and that Africa has risen for a new revolution, they follow the model that the universal revolution of Iran established under the leadership of the imam and his legitimate successor.

He added that: We are the nation of the Koran which has everlasting verses. The verse "Seest thou not how thy Lord dealt with the Companions of the Elephant?" has set a pattern for us and the verse "We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption)" has taught us a lesson. We are not a sleepy and lazy nation that would abandon her beliefs even for a short moment. We are not a nation with a deceving appearance that looks interesting and charming but is empty and hollow in essence. We are not going to be like the Fahds and the like of them who have statred a war in God's house in this month of Moharram.

He then added: A well-known American financial publication in its 11th issue estimated Fahd's wealth to exeed $18 billion. He is the second wealthiest person in the world. TIME magazine writes that not only does Fahd know all different types of dances by name, but he also knows all dancers by name. Every year he pays $100,000 to a dirty Lebanese individual so that he [Fahd] can go to a specific place and have orgies whenever he wants. He gambles $1 million per week and thus plunders the Muslim treasury. In his age, he weighs 125 kg and owns 12 palaces. His palace in Riyadh is four times larger than the one which belonged to the deceased Shah. If there are the likes of Fahd in Iraq or other countries, our struggle is against them. We support our ideology and those who propagate Islam under the banner of "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the apostle of God ".

Our imam said that even if we forgive Saddam, we can not forgive Fahd and the Saudi family, becaused he violated the sanctity of the sanctury [Mecca] when 400 persons were martyred there. If Saddam caused the martyrdom of 100,000 martyrs from among us, as the imam said, Fahd's guilt is heavier, because he violated the sanctity of the sanctury.

Ratifications

According to RESALAT Majles reporter, during the open session of the Majles yesterday, several other amendments to the notes of the 1370 [starting 21 March 1991] draft budget bill were discussed and ratified.

According to Note 14 of the 1370 budget bill, the prohibition on the purchase of motor vehicles that had been mentioned in note 63 of the 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] budget bill, would not be enforced and the purchase of domestic vehicles, if the supply exists, by the government agencies will be based on regulations which will be approved by the cabinet.

Importation of parts for assembling any kind of vehicle must be carried out exclusively by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and within the framework of production plans of that ministry.

Importation of any kind of automobile, by individuals or legal entities, for temporary or permanent use is prohibited. The importation of different kinds of pick-up trucks, buses, minibuses, trucks, and agriculcural and construction machineries is permitted only with the agreement of the ministry of heavy industries and the approval of the Cabinet, granted that the foreign

exchange needed for their importation will not be less than what is needed for production of similar machineries within the country.

If the possibility for machinery production mentioned in Paragraph C of this note does not exist in the country, or will not exist at the most within one year, then the Ministry of Heavy Indusries is required to agree with their importation.

If the possibilities for the transfer of technical know-how and domestic production exist, the above purchases must be done by the Ministry of Heavy Industries or in coordination with that ministry.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries is required to guarantee the provision of all services for machinery stated in paragraph C, after they are sold.

In addition, according to note 15, Majles deputies have agreed that the executive branch agencies can allocate funds based on what is stated in appropriate schedules (which will be determined after consideration of notes, the ceiling, and the nature of the expenses), and independent of the public expenditure law.

Also, during yesterday's afternoon seesion of the Majles, deliberation on the details of the 1370 draft budget bill continued and suggestions presented by some of the deputies regarding note 16 was ratified.

Note 16

A: 1 - All provincial executive agencies are allowed to utilize voluntary assistance of the people in order to implement and complete their development plans.
All universities and institutions of higher education affiliated with the ministry of education and training, and ministry of health, treatment, and medical education are allowed to utilize voluntary assistance of the people in order to construct or complete student dormitories and cafeteria buildings.

2 - The sum of 40 billion rials allocated in row 503,079, part 4 of this law, will be appropriated for small projects and completion of unfinished provincial projects in tribal regions, deprived districts, and deprived villages in developed regions where at least 10 percent of the cost is provided by people (in the form of cash, moveable and immovable property, and manpower). In other districts, villages, and towns with populations under 20,000, 30 percent of the cost should be paid by people. All other districts pay 50 percent of the cost. Allocation to each province would be distributed among the projects based on the recommendation of governor-general or the chief executive and approved by the provincial planning committee

The sum of 2 billion rials will be added to the grand total in this note and will be placed at the disposal of the Organization for the Development of Sistan province to be spent for construction of infrastructure and necessary buildings in accordance with the regulations governing the above expenditures. Also, equal to this amount will be added to the grand total in row 410,108 of this law.

3 - A maximum of 30 percent of the allocations in this note must be assigned to cities, and a minimum of 70 percent must be assigned to rural and tribal regions. Funds that are contributed by people for projects that are included in this note will be tax deductable. Utilizing the allocations of this note in the provincial capitals is prohibited.

4 - A minimum of 30 percent of the allocations specified in Paragraph A will be spent to create and expand educational centers, while 5 percent of the same will be spent for the establishment of training camps.

5 - The sum of 6 billion rials will be allocated for construction, repair and maintenance of sanitary public baths in villages that lack public baths, for production of drinking water, and for assisting villagers to build sanitary public baths.

6 - Initiation of projects that are not individually productive and will cost more than 240 million rials will be prohibited on the basis of the allocations in this note.

B: The sum of 20 billion rials of allocation in row 503,034 will be assigned for the completion of projects that are unfinished according to Paragraph B of Note 16 of the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] budget law. The allocations for each province will be distributed among the the above projects based on the recommendation of the governor-general and approval of the provincial planning committee.